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## THE ANSWERS TO OUR DIARY QUESTIONS

should be sent in by home subscribers before December 31. The questions appear to be attractive, and the results are likely to be of greater interest than usual. Each copy of THE DIARY contains a coupon, and the card attached to it has spaces for the replies. We are to give 10s. 10s. in prizes.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The offices of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST at 42 Cannon Street, E.C., will be closed from Friday evening, December 22, until Wednesday morning, December 27. Applications for Supplements or any other enquiries which are desired to be attended to before Christmas should be received not later than the first post on Friday morning.

## OUR WINTER ISSUE.

THIS falls on January 27, 1900. The publisher has commenced his preparations for it, and an original illuminated cover is in the hands of the printers. We mention that fact to show that the time is ripe for giving orders for circulars, price-lists, or other insets, which firms may think of inserting in our Winter issue. The C. & D. publisher has printed instructions in regard to the "make-up" of insets, which should be obtained. We may add that rough ideas for insets can be worked up by our artists, if desired.

## Summary.

BOVREIL (LIMITED) describe the evolution of the bullock and his brother poster (p. 1000).

THERE are fresh designs for the alteration of the Pharmaceutical Society's by-laws (p. 989).

PARKE'S DRUG STORES (LIMITED) have not done so well this past year, the directors say (p. 999).

COMMERCIAL AMMONIA PRODUCTS appear not to be sufficiently freed from tarry matters (p. 1000).

THE ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE HOMŒOPATH has been held to have infringed the Apothecaries Act (p. 996).

MR. MACKENZIE DAVIDSON, the Röntgen-ray authority, describes recent advances in the new science (p. 990).

TWO BROTHERS of the late Mr. David Donald, Perth, are in litigation regarding their shares of his estate (p. 997).

SEVERAL EXCELLENT DISPENSING NOTES were discussed by Liverpool students last week, and are reported on p. 991.

THE BATAVIAN QUININE-AUCTIONS still command interest, and we give further particulars about them on p. 1004.

THE SACCHARIN CORPORATION has won a case in the High Court, in which the validity of Monnet's patent was disputed (p. 995).

FROM THE SEAT OF WAR we have several pieces of interesting information, including a picture of a siege-train pharmacy (p. 978).

ASSISTANTS who apply for situations should take some pains with their letters of application. This is the moral of a letter on p. 1001.

MR. E. C. C. STANFORD, the well-known iodine-manufacturer, and a former student in the School of Pharmacy, died last Saturday (p. 979).

MR. BOOT denies that he is "putting his house in order" in view of amendment of the Companies Acts (p. 1000). His local views are criticised on p. 988.

A MIXTURE of lead acetate, bismuth oxynitrate, and tartar emetic was given in our Students' Corner last time. It proved stiff for many competitors (p. 970).

THE BIRMINGHAM STIPENDIARY has advised the city chemists to be more careful in testing their drugs. They should get Proctor's "Testing Manual" (p. 996).

CAMPORATED OIL, magnesia, milk of sulphur, olive oil, and sweet spirit of nitre are the articles which figure in Sale of Food and Drugs Act proceedings this week (p. 996).

MR. J. C. UMNEY gives facts and figures to show that asafetida of B.P. quality is unobtainable. His article on p. 983 is a timely warning to public analysts. See also p. 989.

SULPHATES OF BISMUTH and the reactions between sulphuric acid and potassium ferrocyanide were the most interesting subjects at the Chemical Society last week (p. 990).

THE B.P.C. FORMULARY is again on the stocks. Mr. N. H. Martin is the new chairman of the committee, and Messrs Peter Boa and H. Wilson (Southampton) the new members (p. 977).

MR. S. R. ATKINS has carried Bournemouth chemists with him in regard to the way to deal with company-pharmacy (p. 994). Edinburgh chemists have expressed their views on the subject (p. 992).

QUININE and a few other alkaloids are dearer; German camphor is again cheaper, and trade generally is good for the season. A report of the annual castorum-sales is included in our Trade Report (p. 1005).

IT IS PROPOSED to re-convert the Chemists' Aerated and Mineral Water Association (Limited) into a new company—Camwal (Limited)—with a capital of a quarter of a million, and to push the business amongst hotels, &c. (p. 999).



## Students' Corner.

CONDUCTED BY RICHARD J. MOSS, F.I.C., F.O.S.

**ANALYTICAL TOURNAMENT.**—During the six months October, 1899, to March, 1900, the marks obtained by competitors will be recorded month by month, and the three candidates who obtain the highest aggregates of marks in the period will be awarded special prizes. First 2l. 2s., second 1l. 1s., and third 10s. 6d., in books, with certificates. Competitors using a *nom de plume* are requested to adhere to one name throughout the term.

### QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS.

**A** MIXTURE of not more than three salts will form the subject of the next exercise in qualitative analysis. The mixture is to be submitted to a thorough systematic examination, all its constituents are to be detected, and proof is to be given that the substances detected are the only constituents of the mixture.

Students' applications for portions of the mixture of salts (accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope, not a stamp merely) will be received up to Wednesday, December 20, and the samples will be forwarded immediately.

Students' reports will be received up to Saturday, January 6, 1900, thus allowing a week longer than usual for the analysis in consequence of the Christmas holidays. Each report should contain a concise account of the work done, and should include a list of the constituents detected. In this list any substance regarded as an accidental impurity should be distinguished from the essential constituents of the salts composing the mixture.

### REPORTS.

The mixture of salts sent to correspondents last month contained six parts of lead acetate, two parts of bismuth oxyhydrate, and two parts of antimony potassium tartrate.

The calculated composition of such a mixture is—

Pb ...	...	...	...	...	32.77
Bi ...	...	...	...	...	13.73
Sb ...	...	...	...	...	7.11
K ...	...	...	...	...	2.28
NO <sub>3</sub> ..	...	...	...	...	4.05
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	...	...	...	...	18.68
C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	...	...	...	...	8.63
O ...	...	...	...	...	1.98
H <sub>2</sub> O ...	...	...	...	...	10.77
					100.00

A trace of calcium and a very slight trace of iron were present as impurities.

Samples of the powder were sent to 142 applicants, and 75 reports of analyses were received in reply.

All our correspondents, with one exception, detected lead, but in the case of the other constituents there were the following failures—viz., nitric acid, 36; bismuth, 30; tartaric acid, 30; acetic acid, 16; antimony, 19; potassium, 13. As these figures show, the exercise was by no means an easy one. Some of the reports received are most creditable; on the other hand, there are several which reveal no very lofty ideas of the nature of chemical analysis or the functions of the analyst. The writers seem to think that chemical analysis consists in the application of certain tests, the results of which are to be interpreted in accordance with the instructions of a textbook with as little trouble to the operator as possible, and the exercise of a minimum amount of intelligence. This is a complete mistake. Chemical analysis cannot be successfully pursued without the exercise of a considerable amount

of intelligence; it makes demands upon almost every branch of chemical knowledge—general, physical, theoretical, and practical. Chemical analysis is a branch of applied chemistry in which advantage is taken of almost every property of matter. We hope our correspondents will not allow their work to degenerate into mere "test-tubing," as it has been appropriately called, but that they will regard each analysis as a piece of research requiring thought and originality. A complete chemical analysis would, of course, include quantitative determinations, and such determinations imply the complete isolation of the constituents of a substance, or at least their removal from associated bodies in some definite chemical combination. Unfortunately the conditions under which many of our correspondents carry on their studies do not admit of their engaging in quantitative work, but we would ask our readers to aim at results as nearly quantitative as possible, without actually resorting to weighing or measuring. In dealing with the constituents of a mixture the aim should be to isolate each constituent in some definite chemical form—first in groups, if necessary, afterwards individually. After this isolation has been effected the isolated body should be identified by its properties, remembering that one characteristic peculiarity may afford more conclusive proof of identity than a dozen features that are not peculiar to the substance in question.

A good many of the reports before us show that the heavy metals were not completely precipitated by sulphuretted hydrogen. With a certain proportion of free acid in the solution, no amount of sulphuretted hydrogen would completely remove the bismuth: it was necessary to dilute the solution liberally with water.

The examination of the powder for the acids presented some difficulties, and required the exercise of a good deal of intelligence. Boiling with sodium carbonate did not remove antimony. The best results were obtained by removing the heavy metals by precipitation with sulphuretted hydrogen. It was possible to effect this object without the addition of an acid. By suspending the powder in water, and passing sulphuretted hydrogen through the liquid, with occasional warming, the heavy metals were completely, though slowly, removed. The filtrate was then freed from sulphuretted hydrogen by warming in a dish on the water-bath, the acids were neutralised by the addition of an alkali, and the solution concentrated to any desired extent. When the operation was properly carried out the loss of volatile acids was very small, and no extraneous saline matter was introduced—an important point in the precipitation of such substances as calcium tartrate.

### PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to

E. H. HARRY, 57 Old Town, Olapham, S.W.

The Second Prize has been awarded to

A. E. KING, c/o Messrs. Fuller & Co., Norwich.

### MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

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### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**Prizes.**—The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher, naming the book they select, and stating how they wish it forwarded.

Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half a guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

**Note.**—All communications should include the names and addresses of the writers.

**TURPS.**—The powder turned strong sulphuric acid a dark-brown colour when heated with it.

**BULLER and BADEN-POWELL.**—The exigencies of war, no doubt, compel you to work together, but we should like to see a little originality in your work: your two reports are identical in every respect except the handwriting and a single word.

**OLEUM.**—You will find, on comparing the different methods of applying the ferrous-sulphate test for nitric acid, that the best results are obtained by first adding the ferrous sulphate in the solid form, and, after most of it has dissolved, cautiously adding strong sulphuric acid, by means of a pipette, to the lower part of the solution. The object to be attained is to liberate nitric acid, reduce it, and dissolve the resulting nitric oxide in ferrous-sulphate solution, within as limited an area as possible. Proceeding in the way described, the action takes place only at the juncture of the two liquids, and owing to the wide difference in the density of the liquids the line is sharply defined.

**HOPEFUL.**—The original powder had a distinct acetic-acid odour, which should have been detected. The odour was greatly intensified by treatment with an acid. Contrary to your statement, cacodyl was abundantly evolved when the powder was heated with arsenious anhydride.

**METAPHENYLEDIAMINE.**—See remarks to "Hopeful." You do not mention any test that would have shown an acetate to be present or absent.

**LONDONER.**—The light colour of the precipitate you obtained with sulphuretted hydrogen shows that you failed to completely precipitate the heavy metals.

**ALFRED E. MILLER.**—The carbonisation of the powder was accompanied by a much more marked empyreumatic odour than an acetate would account for. You omitted to try the effect of calcium chloride with the solution prepared for the detection of the acids.

**VINCO.**—The discoloration of sulphindigotic acid is not nearly as sensitive or characteristic as the ferrous-sulphate test.

**TSEWH.**—You should have tried whether the precipitate you believed consisted of lithium phosphate coloured the Bunsen-flame red.

**J. S. H.**—The solubility of antimony in the sodium-carbonate solution employed to remove the heavy metals was an important fact which many of our contributors failed to notice.

**URANUS.**—The presence of a tartrate explains the results you obtained with calcium chloride. Calcium tartrate separates in the crystalline form, and the formation of a crystal is a process of growth requiring time.

**ACETANILIDE.**—You had very little chance of detecting so small a quantity of nitric acid by the reducing-action of copper.

**R. T. S.**—You followed a good method for the detection of

bismuth, but it is not clear that you used your reagents in the necessary quantity.

**EPAC.**—The plan that succeeded best for the detection of bismuth was first to remove lead from the nitric-acid solution of the sulphides in the form of sulphate with the aid of alcohol: the bismuth was then precipitated from the filtrate by ammonia as hydroxide.

**MARCUS.**—Sugar of lead which has been exposed to the air contains free acetic acid, liberated by the carbon dioxide of the air: this would account in part for the acid reaction of the powder.

**L. P.**—Your calcium citrate was simply tartrate: if you had allowed sufficient time, all the tartrate would have precipitated in the cold.

**E. M. LEESE.**—We are sorry you had to work under such disadvantages. It is pretty clear that you failed to precipitate the bismuth as sulphide. You should not have used a nitric-acid solution.

**R. H. SUTTON.**—The colour of your sulphuretted-hydrogen precipitate shows that you did not pass the gas long enough to throw down the bismuth, or that the solution was too strongly acid.

**E. IRVING.**—There was a great deal more to be made of the metallic beads: with a little care it was possible to ascertain that they contained bismuth and antimony as well as lead.

**A. C. P.**—See remarks to E. Irving.

**J. B. TILLOTT.**—You omitted to examine the sulphuretted-hydrogen precipitate for antimony, arsenic, and tin by treating it with an alkaline sulphide, and ascertaining whether anything was dissolved.

**W. PARKINSON.**—You proved the presence of certain substances. This, however, is not sufficient; you must prove that the substances detected are the only constituents of the mixture. Bismuth and acetic acid, for example, should have been proved either present or absent.

**LAMBDA.**—You do not seem to have made any attempt to prove the presence or absence of bismuth in the sulphuretted-hydrogen precipitate.

**IONONE.**—It would appear that you did not use enough hydrochloric acid to completely decompose the alkaline sulphide with which the sulphuretted-hydrogen precipitate had been treated. If you consider the object to be attained, it is obvious that the acid must be used in decided excess.

**A. L. FRASER.**—More thorough and exhaustive work is necessary, especially in dealing with the acidulous radicles.

**E. B.**—You were wrong in supposing that sulphuric acid had no carbonising-effect on the powder. See remarks to "Turps."

**A. S. REID.**—The only explanation we can offer of your white precipitate with ammonium sulphide is that it consisted of sulphur derived from the ammonium sulphide by the action of free acid, which, of course, would not be present if enough ammonia had been previously added.

**CAVE.**—The fact of your obtaining a black precipitate with ammonium sulphide shows how imperfectly you had removed the heavy metals with sulphuretted hydrogen.

**TYKE.**—See remarks to "Cave."

**ROSA.**—Antimony sulphide should have been removed from the sulphuretted-hydrogen precipitate by the action of ammonium sulphide, the residue dissolved in nitric acid, the lead then separated as sulphate, and the bismuth finally precipitated as hydroxide.

**LONGTOME.**—It is difficult to understand how you could mistake any sublimate for mercury, because the metal always condenses in globules, which coalesce when brought in contact by rubbing.

**LADYSMITH.**—Your aluminium precipitate was simply due to bismuth, which you had failed to precipitate as sulphide.

**JAPOCONITURE.**—The easily-fusible metals attack platinum. Salts of such metals, easily reduced to the metallic state, should not be heated in platinum vessels. Consult the article on "Fusion" in Fresenius's "Qualitative Analysis."

**FIRST ATTEMPT.**—This was a rather difficult exercise for a beginner: the next will be easier. You do not give nearly enough information about the work done. Many of the reports received are five times as long as yours.

**YENTON.**—We have no fault to find with the form in which your report is drawn up. You wasted time and material in unnecessary confirmatory tests. Try to completely separate each metallic constituent, and identify it by one or two characteristic tests.

**A. E. B.**—You made a sad mess of the acids: it was hopeless to identify them in the presence of the heavy metals.



**T. YATES.**—You omitted the very important preliminary examination in the dry way. You should have allowed the hydrochloric-acid solution to cool, to see if lead chloride would precipitate.

**HAWTHORN.**—The blowpipe-test, depending upon ignition with a cobalt salt, is of very limited application. It can only be used with white infusible bodies, such as oxides, phosphates, and silica. The application of the test to a coloured or readily-fusible substance is a senseless proceeding.

**HERON.**—You ascertained in your first experiment that an organic salt was present, but in your final results you omit any reference to organic substances.

**Y. E. WILSON.**—Before concluding that the blackening of the powder by heat was due to the formation of an oxide of lead you ought to have considered whether there was such a substance as a black oxide of lead. If you had attributed the blackening to the formation of "blacklead" it would have been nearer to the mark.

**SAPERE AUDE.**—You should study analytical reactions experimentally with salts of known composition. Your ideas of the reactions of mercury seem to be derived from your text-book, instead of from actual experiments with salts of mercury.

**KACHIN.**—See remarks to "Hawthorn" and "Sapere aude."

### THE TOURNAMENT.

This is the second competition of the tournament mentioned in the prefatory note. The following is a list of those who have made 90 per cent. at least in the two competitions. There may be others who have used a distinct *nom de plume* in each competition:—

A. E. King	...	199	Buller	...	186
A. E. Beeston	...	194	Baden-Powell	...	186
R. R. B.	...	193	Aberthaw	...	184
Leven	...	192	Algol	...	182
E. H. H.	...	191	Phenalgol	...	182
Welburn	...	190	J. S. Hill	...	181
Tellurium	...	189	Metaphenylenediamine	...	181
Cumbriana	...	188	Hopeful	...	180
Eros	...	187	W. Stott	...	180
H. M.	...	186			

It may be noted that the first prizeman on this occasion had only 91 per cent. last time, and three of those who figure in the 90-per-cent. list had less than that percentage, so that there is every encouragement for competitors to peg away.

## English News.

*Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.*

### Institute of Chemistry.

Amongst the Fellows who have recently been elected are three pharmaceutical chemists—viz., Messrs. Peter Auchinchie, 136 Shaftesbury Avenue, W.; A. E. Ekins, St. Albans; and F. Hudson Cox, Bradford. Mr. A. H. M. Muter, son of Dr. Muter, Kennington, has also been elected. Mr. Ernest Goulding, B.Sc., Ph.C., of the Imperial Institute research staff, has been elected an associate.

### Chemists' Defence.

At a meeting of the Great Yarmouth Chemists' Association, held on December 7 the adjourned discussion on the Chemists' Defence Association was resumed, and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That this Association, having carefully considered the objects, rules, &c., of the Chemists' Defence Association, recommends it to the favourable consideration of its members and chemists generally.

### Postal Changes.

The postage to be prepaid on parcels for Jamaica is now: For each parcel weighing not over 3 lbs., 1s.; over 3 lbs., but not over 7 lbs., 2s.; over 7 lbs., but not over 11 lbs., 3s. The postage on parcels from Jamaica for the United Kingdom is the same. On pages 256 to 258 of the DIARY are given full

information on all postal matters, and there it will be seen that the former rate for parcels to Jamaica was 9d. per lb. up to 11 lbs.

### Contracts.

Mr. John Cossey, chemist and druggist, has secured the contract for the supply of trusses to St. Faith's Workhouse, Norwich.

The Cannock Board of Guardians has accepted the following tenders:—Mr. T. W. Garland, Cannock, for saltpetre, 1½d. per lb., Calvert's soft soap at 29s per cwt., linseed-meal at 2d. per lb.; Mr. L. Adams, Cannock, brimstone at 1½d. per lb.

### Wholesale Robberies.

The charges against William Flynn and Alfred Lumley of robbing their employers, Messrs. Cussons (Limited), grocers, store chemists, and general dealers, Hull (see *C. & D.*, December 2, page 891), were heard before the Hull Stipendiary on December 8. G. W. Anderson, chemist, Derringham Street, to whom some of the goods were supplied, deposed that he did not know the goods were stolen. He got some receipts, but destroyed them. It was the practice of chemists to buy from wholesale houses, and not from retail managers, but from what Flynn had said he believed he (Flynn) had a right to sell the goods. Detective-Sergeant Wilson spoke to receiving the stolen property from Mr. Anderson and other chemists to whom he had sold goods. Mr. Anderson gave all the information possible to the police. Witness had also received stolen goods from chemists at Harrogate and Scarborough. Prisoners pleaded guilty, and were each committed for four months.

### Charges of Stealing and Receiving.

At Southwark Police Court on December 8, John Jones, Henry Parker, William Royon, and Jethro Lardent were charged on remand with stealing and receiving three casks of cod-liver oil, 7 lbs. of camphor, 8 lbs. of iodoform, and a quantity of quicksilver, of the total value of 27l. 12s., the property of Messrs. Davy, Hill & Son, Yates & Hicks, wholesale druggists, Park Street. For the prosecution it was stated that prisoners would also be charged with conspiracy to steal. Jones had been in the employment of the prosecutors about two years, Parker was accustomed to buy empty barrels at their warehouse, Lardent was a herbalist carrying on business in Southwark Park Road, and Royon was his assistant. Information of the robberies was given to the prosecutors by Royon, who said Lardent had made a tool of him for dishonest purposes, and that what had been done had preyed upon his mind. The police were communicated with, and it was discovered that Lardent had sold the oil to a wholesale firm in Mitre Square, but the other articles were found in his possession. Jones commissioned Parker to communicate with Lardent, who professed his willingness to buy any of the prosecutors' goods which might be conveyed to him. Parker carted the goods to Lardent's after dark, and received 2l., while Jones got 12s. Lardent however, declared that he paid 10l. or 11l. for the stolen goods, which Royon said included ichthyol, lunar caustic, and other articles not mentioned in the charge. Royon mentioned two other firms as having been robbed, and produced a list of names of alleged purchasers of portions of the goods. It was at first proposed to call Royon as a witness, but he appeared to have taken such a guilty part in the proceedings that it was decided to charge him in company with the others. The prosecutors had in their employment a man named Parker, but he had no connection with the prisoner of that name, and no suspicion attached to him. Mr. Charles Alexander Hill narrated the story told him by Royon, and stated that upon examination he found that six barrels of oil were missing from the firm's stock. He identified the three empty barrels produced by the police, notwithstanding that the letters "D.H." had been obliterated from them. According to Royon that was done by Lardent, but Lardent said it was done by Royon. After hearing other evidence, the Magistrate intimated that the prisoners would be committed for trial.

### Domestic Differences.

At Spalding Police Court on December 5, John M. Marjason, described as a chemist, of Richmond, Surrey, but not on the register, was summoned for refusing to contribute



towards the maintenance of his father, who is chargeable to Spalding Union, and for recovery of 6*l.* 2*s.*, being sixty-one weeks' arrears at 2*s.* per week. Defendant was ordered to pay the amount and costs forthwith, or in default a distress-warrant would be issued.

At Oxford Police Court on December 5, Walter Ballard, chemist, Oxford, was summoned to show cause why a separation-order should not be granted to his wife. Defendant did not appear, and Mrs. Ballard accused her husband of habitual drunkenness and cruelty. James Mason, who acted as *locum-tenens* for the defendant, deposed to having heard defendant threaten to murder his wife, and using bad language towards her. Since he had managed the business the gross takings had been 7*l.* or 8*l.* per week. A separation-order was granted, defendant being ordered to contribute 25*s.* per week towards his wife's maintenance.

#### A Chemist's Traveller's Death.

An inquiry was held at Manchester on December 8 touching the death of John Maull Ward, late of 63 South Street, West Gorton, a chemist's traveller. Deceased died suddenly in bed, and a *post-mortem* examination showed disease of the heart and intense congestion of the lungs and brain. Death from natural causes was the verdict.

#### Found Dead.

A manufacturing chemist named Robert Wm. Dentith, living at Cheetham, was found dead in bed on December 10. For about two months he had occasionally complained of headache, but the cause of death was not apparent at the inquest, which was held on December 12.

#### Fires.

On December 6 fire broke out at Johnson's Chemical-works, Shelf, but was quickly subdued.

On December 6 a fire broke out in the storeroom at the rear of the premises of Magor (Limited), chemists, Park Street, Walsall. The outbreak was easily overcome, but not before considerable damage had been done.

A fire broke out on the premises of Messrs. Woolley (Limited), wholesale druggists, 27 Northgate, Blackburn, on the evening of December 9, but owing to the promptness of the fire-brigade no serious damage was done. While the firemen were busy some twenty bottles containing chloroform were broken, and Inspector Simpson and two firemen, while in the shop, were overcome, but soon recovered on getting into the fresh air.

#### Carbolic Cases.

Martha Annie Tommy, lately residing at Bradford, deliberately drank a quantity of carbolic acid in the presence of her husband, and died a few hours afterwards.

A widow named Frances Nixon, living at Newcastle-on-Tyne, drank a quantity of carbolic acid on December 4 whilst in a despondent state of mind, and died.

On December 6, Joseph Milburn (57), a deputy-overman at Messrs. Joicey & Co.'s Collieries, Tanfield Lea, picked up an unlabelled 3-gill bottle and drank about 4 oz. of carbolic acid in mistake for port wine. He died two and a-half hours later.

#### Helped Himself.

At an inquiry held at Southwaite, on December 9, respecting the death of Ann Elliott, housekeeper to Dr. Mitchell, it was stated that deceased, being unable to sleep, went to the surgery to get a sleeping-draught. She found a small blue bottle in a cupboard, some of the contents of which she poured into a measure-glass and, after adding some water, drank it. It was subsequently discovered that deceased had taken 3 dr. of prussic acid, and she died within a couple of hours.

#### The Sale of Laudanum.

At Exeter on December 12, Mr. Charles Herbert Thomas, manager for Messrs. Holman, Ham & Co., chemists, of Exeter, gave evidence in a charge against a man named Lightfoot for attempted suicide by laudanum-poisoning.

Mr. Thomas stated that prisoner came into the St. Sidwell's branch and asked for sixpenny worth of laudanum "for

a friend." He was cautioned, and the laudanum was given him in a poison-bottle, having a "Poison"-label. Witness explained in answer to the Chairman that it was only necessary that the bottle be labelled with the name of the substance, the word "Poison," and the firm who supplied it. They were, he said, well within the law.

The Chairman: Do you sell laudanum to people you do not know?

Witness: Anyone can have laudanum if properly labelled, but it being such a large quantity I put it in a poison-bottle and cautioned the purchaser.

#### Glamorganshire Drugs.

The report by Mr. C. A. Seyler, County Analyst, for the past quarter does not contain much that affects the drug-trade. Referring to drugs he says: "The samples do not call for special comment, being of good quality. A sample of camphorated oil was correct as regards the amount of camphor, but the oil was suspicious of an admixture of rape or arachis oil."

#### The Birkenhead Dispenser.

At the meeting of the Birkenhead Board of Guardians on December 12, a letter was read from Dr. Martin, in which he informed the Board that a writ had been served upon him on behalf of Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., in connection with the recent dismissal of a dispenser, and his (Dr. Martin's) allegations respecting Messrs. Evans. It was moved and seconded:—

That Dr. Martin's letter and the writ which have been received be handed over to the Clerk with instructions to take all necessary steps to retain solicitor and counsel, if necessary, to defend Dr. Martin in the proceedings which are being taken against him by Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co. in consequence of his having carried out the instructions of the Guardians in having verbally reported upon their account.

Alderman Getley pointed out they would never get the consent of the Local Government Board to such an absurd suggestion as that. Dr. Martin was not being prosecuted for what he did on behalf of the Board, but for certain things he said that had nothing to do with the investigation he was making.

It was then proposed that the matter should be discussed *in camera*. Alderman Getley objected, but the proposition was carried, and, after a lengthy discussion in committee, the Board resolved unanimously to defend Dr. Martin in the action for libel.

[In connection with this matter, and the report which we published last week, we have received a letter from Messrs. Sumner & Co., who say that the medicine referred to last week was sweet spirit of nitre. They say: "No information was given us as to the date it was supplied, where or how it was stocked, neither through whose hands it had passed, nor were we furnished with a sample of it. All we have to say is that all spirit of nitre supplied by us to the Birkenhead Guardians when it left our hands was of full strength, and answered the B.P. tests."]

## Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

#### Pharmaceutical Examinations.

Candidates for the January Pharmaceutical Assistant, Registered Druggist, and Pharmaceutical Licence Examinations are informed that, in consequence of the Christmas holidays, the Registrar will attend in his office on Saturday, December 23, from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M., to receive applications.

Applications for January Preliminary examination must be lodged with the Registrar not later than 11 o'clock on the morning of December 19.

#### Personal.

At the recent Final examination of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, Mr. John J. Scanlan, late of Messrs.



Hamilton, Long & Co., Dublin, and Me-srs Harrington & Son, Cork, successfully passed, and was admitted L R O P E, L.R.C.S.E., L.R.O.P.G. Dr. John Scanlan studied at the Queen's College, Cork.

#### Medicine-mistake.

A fatal medicine-mistake was made on December 3 at Ballymulderg, near Magherafelt. A farmer named Edwards got up out of bed to take some ether which he kept for the purpose of relieving asthma-pains, but by mistake took a dose of liquid ammonia which was in a similar bottle. At the inquest, the jury found that death was caused by drinking a quantity of ammonia through misadventure.

#### Irish Pharmacists Assistants' Association.

The annual dance of the Association is to be held at Dublin on December 26. It is interesting to note that on the cards of admission the word "assistants" is conspicuous by its absence, the Association being described simply as the "Irish Pharmacists' Association." It is this title to which the Pharmaceutical Society takes objection.

## French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

M. LEMOINE, Professor of Chemistry at the Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, has been elected as a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences (Section of Chemistry), in the place of the late M. Friedel. Professor Jungfleisch, of the Paris School of Pharmacy, was also a candidate.

PHARMACY IN TUNIS.—In the French Protectorate of Tunis pharmacy is conducted in a more or less casual way, many of the natives carrying on the sale of poisons practically without control. A movement is on foot to bring about a better state of things, with the assistance of the French military pharmacists, in the interests of public security.

LAVOISIER'S MONUMENT.—At the last meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Berthelot gave some details regarding the monument to Lavoisier, which is to be unveiled while the Paris Exhibition is open. M. Berthelot announced that a sum of 98 000 francs (nearly 4 000 £) has been received in subscriptions, and the well-known sculptor Barrias, has been entrusted with the work. The open space behind the Madeleine Church is the site selected.

DISLOYAL COMPETITION.—M. Maurice Robin, maker of a proprietary medicine well known in France as the "Peptonate de Fer Robin," has brought an action for disloyal competition against M. M. L. Robin, a pharmacien of Clermont, who sold a preparation under the same name. The defendant was fined 2 000 francs, and an amount for damages to be fixed later, as well as the cost of advertising the judgment in five newspapers. He was further ordered to replace the words "Peptonate de Fer" for his preparation by "Chloropeptonate de Fer" and print his full name, Michel Louis Robin, on all his labels.

THE ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH PHARMACISTS' ASSISTANTS will hold its grand annual fête on December 24, at the Restaurant Vefour Jeune, Palais Royal, Paris. It will consist of a banquet, to commence at half-past eleven P.M., and will be followed by a ball. M. Mullerand, Minister of Commerce, and MM. Astier and Brunet, pharmacien-Deputies, are expected to be present. The price of the tickets for the two functions is 5f. for ladies and 6f. for gentlemen. It will be an all-night affair, and will be interesting on account of being practically the only occasion during the year when Paris assistants and their friends meet together for a little joviality. The Association has recently decided to agitate for a diploma for assistant-pharmacists.

PHARMACEUTICAL ADVERTISING.—The latest poster on the walls of Paris is that of a pharmaceutical speciality under the name of "Supplées Pilules." If you cough you are invited to take one. The poster attracts attention principally on account of being another addition to the caricatures in which the First Lady of the World figures. One cannot help remarking that the proprietor of the pilules would have

shown better taste had he chosen another subject; but then Parisians have always had a delight for looking on the humorous side of everything, and all the protests in the world will not cure them of this proclivity. The poster shows the Queen sitting in a red arm-chair coughing violently, while "Oom Paul" is standing opposite and offering, with as much courtesy as he is able, a box of the pilules by way of relief. As regards the "Pilules," I called at the pharmacy of which the address figured on the poster and asked for a box of them; the pharmacien had none on sale, but said they were prepared by him, and could be bought in any other pharmacy. He gave me a couple of boxes of samples, with which I found a circular setting forth the virtues of the pills, amongst which are the words in English "The Superior Medicament." Another form of advertising which is unlike the stereotyped style is a circular from the executors of Dr. T. W. Evans, the well-known dentist, in which they say that, complying with his last wishes, they are continuing the sale of his dental preparations in accordance with the formula found attached to the doctor's will.

## East Indian News.

HAFFKIN PLAGUE SERUM.—It is notified this fluid is to be known in future in official correspondence as "Haffkinine."

VETERINARY HOSPITAL FOR SOUTH AFRICA.—A British veterinary field hospital is to leave Calcutta for Durban early in December.

HEAVY DEFALCATIONS.—The Rangoon police report the disappearance of Wong Chin Shu, partner in the Rangoon Opium Farm. The books show a deficit of 80,000r.

BACTERIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOR CEYLON.—This institute, the gift of Mr. J. W. C. De Soysa, will be formally opened by the Governor on his return to the island.

TRANSVAAL WAR FUND.—The Calcutta chemists, Messrs. Bathgate, Smith, Stanistreet & Co.; and R. Scott Thomson, each contribute 250r. to this fund, which on November 23 reached 46,679r. 2a.

MR. FRANK ROSS, for ten years with Messrs. Smith, Stanistreet & Co., Calcutta, has recently been appointed representative in India and the East for Messrs. Fletcher, Fletcher & Co. (Limited), manufacturing chemists, Holloway, London, N.

BENGAL OPIUM.—The profit to Government under this head up to end of November amounts to 39,112,700, or over 14 lakhs better than the estimate. The twentieth sale of opium takes place on December 1 at the Government Sales Rooms, Calcutta, when 3,400 chests will be sold—1,450 from the Patna Factory, and 1,950 from the Ghazipur Factory.

BOTANISTS BEWARE.—Bengali admiration of the Lieutenant-Governor has taken the following form. The advertisement is from a current issue of a Calcutta paper:—"Hibiscus Sir John Woodburn is now in flower. It is worth seeing, and lovers of pretty flowers should not lose this opportunity of satisfying their mind and eyes."

THE TATA RESEARCH-LABORATORY.—In connection with the establishment of this institution Mr. J. Cook, of the Central College, Bangalore, writes to the Indian papers stating that the provisional scheme propounded for the outlay entirely underestimates not only the initial cost of the physical and chemical laboratories, but also the annual expenditure on the professoriate requisite in connection with these. He points out that in chemistry there ought to be at least five professors. These would comprise a professor in inorganic, organic, and agricultural, and at least two in technological chemistry. Botany has apparently not been provided for at all. This he regards as a most serious omission.

A WELL-KNOWN TEMPERANCE LECTURER, after looking over the stock of thermometers, remarked to the druggist, "I don't think any of these will suit me, after all. You see, they never become temperate until near sixty—they reform too late in life."



## Australasian News.

*Chiefly from "The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia" for November, 1899, of which copies may be obtained from the Publisher, 42 Cannon Street, E.C. at 6d. each.*

**A FRIENDLY SOCIETY.**—The Geelong United Friendly Societies Dispensary was registered as a friendly society in 1898. Its registered office is in Geelong, Victoria. Its objects are to raise a fund by the voluntary subscriptions of its members for supplying medicines, medical appliances, and requisites to all members, their wives, and children.

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTINGENT.**—Two of the staff of Duerdin & Sainsbury, Melbourne, are among the men selected for service in South Africa. On October 14 their fellow-employees spent a pleasant half-hour in wishing them God-speed. Felton, Grimwade & Co. offered to supply the contingent with surgical dressings, and the offer was accepted.

**NEW ZEALAND PHARMACY ACT.**—An amendment to this Act, with a view to a solution of the difficulty referred to in our issue of October 28, page 694, has been introduced into the N.Z. Assembly by the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, Premier of the colony. It is entitled the Pharmacy Act Amendment Act and states that the provisions of Subsection 5 of Section 27 of the Pharmacy Act, 1898 (entitling certain persons to be registered as pharmaceutical chemists without examination), shall apply only in cases where the person claiming to be entitled to be registered under that subsection was, as owner or manager, keeping open shop in New Zealand as a dispensing or homœopathic chemist at the time of the coming into operation of that Act.

**EARLY CLOSING.**—The Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales sent out towards the end of September a circular calling the attention of chemists to the proposed Early-closing Bill. In that Bill chemists' shops were included under Schedule 1, and were to be closed not later than 7.30 P.M. on five days in the week, and not later than 10 P.M. on one day in the week. The circular stated that in the opinion of the Council 7.30 was too early for most chemists, and asked for answers to the following questions:—

Do you wish to come under the provisions of the Early-closing Bill? In your opinion is the hour of 7.30 too early to close your shop? Would you favour an extension of time to 8.30 P.M.? Are you of opinion that your shop should be open on Sunday? In your opinion what would be the most suitable hours to open on Sunday?

The results of the voting will be recorded at the next meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council.—In Tasmania the Hobart chemists are directing their efforts against a clause in the Bill which provides that the chemist, for example, who is not compelled to close his shop at a certain time, shall not be allowed to carry on the business, say, of a stationer at a time when other stationers have to close their shops.

**STILL AT IT**—Mr. W. C. FitzGerald is still pressing on Parliament and the Government his claim to a refund of the expenses incurred in defending the action brought against him last year in connection with his official position as Government Vaccinator. The Government had paid him 387*l.*, nearly half of his claim. He had also recovered from George Lambert the sum of 60*l.* included in the larger sum, and is now called upon to defend a Supreme Court action by one of his medical witnesses in the case for a sum of 186*l.* 10*s.* for services claimed to have been rendered in attending in Wellington to give evidence for the defence. Mr. FitzGerald asks that he may be refunded the actual expenses out of pocket, but nothing more. The matter came up in the Legislative Council on October 10, and the Committee recommended that the remainder of his costs should be defrayed by the Government. The Hon. Dr. Grace declared that there was little doubt the petitioner had defended the action in his private capacity, and not as a Government servant; and the Minister of Education held that the action would not have cost half so much if the petitioner had met his enemy in a more circumspect manner.

## Colonial and Foreign News.

**CHEMISTS IN PERSIA.**—In Teheran there are two European, six Armenian, and a great number of Persian chemists. The competition is very sharp and not very fair.

**ITALIAN HYGIENIC EXHIBITION.**—At a largely attended meeting in Naples on November 5, it was decided to open a National Italian Hygienic Exhibition in April 1900. It is hoped the Prince of Naples will be the patron.

**WEST INDIAN PHARMACY.**—In Hayti there are twenty pharmacies, of which two are German; business is not good, the country being in a miserable state. In San Domingo there are eight pharmacies, but much in the same condition as in Hayti.

**SUNDAY-REST FOR CHEMISTS.**—At a recent meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Sunday-rest at The Hague, it was suggested that steps should be taken to ensure chemists also having an adequate rest on that day. The President was asked to place himself in communication with the President of the Maatschappij ter bevordering der Pharmacie.

**TRADE WITH GUATEMALA.**—The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's representative in Guatemala to the effect that all goods brought into Guatemala between January 1 and June 30, 1900, will pay only half the total amount now leviable for import-duties, including the tariff-rates, customs-charges of all kinds, and the proportion of the import-duties payable in gold.

**PHARMACY MATTERS UNPLEASANT.**—The Hungarian Premier, interpellated by a member of Parliament as to the promised reforms in pharmacy, replied that pharmacy-matters were the most unpleasant in his *ressort*, but he hoped to present shortly a Bill providing that the concession for a new pharmacy will be decided by the County Council, and the Minister only appealed to; and that a newly-opened pharmacy may only be sold after five to ten years' proprietorship.

**SACCHARIN.**—The Austrian Ministry for the Interior has published a regulation by which the amount of saccharin stocked and sold by chemists and druggists is subject to a sharp control. In Russia they seem to treat saccharin like a poison, for the amount sold has to be entered in a book. The price of the natural sugar should be reduced, as it is nourishing, while saccharin is not; also the public is to be acquainted with the differences between the two, a misunderstanding being easy, for sugar is in Russian = *Sacchar*.

**A CRETAN EXHIBITION.**—An international exhibition of industrial, commercial, agricultural, artistic, educational, and hygienic products and foodstuffs will be held at Canea in April and May of 1900. The exhibition is under the patronage of Prince George of Greece, and will be under the supervision of a committee of members of the consular bodies and representative business-men in Crete presided over by Mr. C. M. Fournis, councillor of finances to the Prince. Mr. Arthur Gobiet, of Prague-Karolinenthal, Bobemia, has been appointed manager of the exhibition.

**BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS DUTIES.**—From Rio it is announced that on and after January 1, 1900, 15 per cent., instead of 10 per cent. as heretofore, of all import-duties will have to be paid in gold. The Customs tariff has undergone various modifications, the duty on mineral-waters having been reduced by one-third. All goods destined for importation into Brazil will from January 1, 1900, have to be accompanied by consular invoices. It is understood that under the new Brazilian tariff-law goods bearing labels in the Portuguese language will only be admitted into Brazil if they are imported from Portugal. On this point, however, a telegram from H. M. Minister at Rio de Janeiro has now been received by the Board of Trade, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that goods with labels in Portuguese will be admitted into Brazil until March 1, 1900.



## Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

### BENEVOLENT FUND.

THE meeting for the election of four annuitants of the Benevolent Fund was held on December 12 at 16 Bloomsbury Square, W.O. The scrutineers were ready to report the result of their count at 3 o'clock, which was as follows:—Mrs. Bosley, 6407; Mr. Barrows, 4282; Mr. Holt, 3773; Mr. Partridge, 897; Mr. Stangroom, 5595; Mr. Troke, 6323. These figures include the votes credited under Rule X. 4,700 voting-papers were issued, 4,089 returned, and 96 were informal. The President then announced that Mrs. Bosley, Mr. Barrows, Mr. Stangroom, and Mr. Troke were duly elected annuitants of the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society, and he hoped the Council would be able to help the unsuccessful applicants to tide over their difficulties. Thanks to the scrutineers and the President concluded the meeting.

### EVENING MEETING.

THE second evening meeting of the session was held on December 12 at 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., the President in the chair. Professor J. MILLAR THOMSON, F.R.S., delivered a lecture on

#### "SOME RELATIONS OF WATER TO OTHER SUBSTANCES."

The lecture dealt with some of the properties of water and its importance in the economy of Nature. The subject was divided into four parts: (1) The relation of water in combination with other salts; (2) the relation of water as a solvent to substances; (3) the relation of water to the crystalline form of bodies; (4) the relation of water to the colour of certain substances.

In regard to the first part, the familiar examples of lime slaking and anhydrous copper sulphate were shown, the chemical truths incidentally cropping up being deftly illustrated. The facts that heat is evolved when water combines with salts, and that when salts merely dissolve in water heat is absorbed, were shown by the effects of the solution on air thermometers. The solvent action of water on salts was next considered, the meaning of very soluble and slightly soluble being demonstrated, the ratio of solubility at various temperatures being expressed by curves. The question of supersaturation was then considered, the lecturer using a supersaturated solution of sodium acetate for most of the experiments, that having proved in his hands the best solution for the purpose. The two methods of starting crystallisation in supersaturated solutions, by the addition of a particle of the same or an isomorphous salt were demonstrated, and a very pretty effect shown of layers of supersaturated solutions of acetate of sodium and thiosulphate of sodium in the same tube being crystallised, each by the addition of a suitable nucleus. The case of a supersaturated solution of alum was pointed out as differing from other supersaturated solutions, in that when a tiny crystal of alum was dropped into the solution a thin line of crystals formed on the path of the crystal, and simultaneously crystals began to appear in all parts of the solution. Why this solution should behave so the lecturer is investigating. The consideration of the relation of water to the colour of certain substances formed the final part of the lecture. The familiar example of the cobalt-salts was taken. A picture of a seascape done in chloride of cobalt was taken and warmed over gas-jets, when the picture developed into a vigorous seascape, the various tints being due to the presence at the same time of  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (red),  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (dark blue), and  $\text{CoCl}_2$  (pale blue). The final experiment was one with iodide of cobalt; by coating a porcelain dish with a solution of the salt, and cautiously warming, the three iodides were shown together,  $\text{CoI}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (red),  $\text{CoI}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (green), and  $\text{CoI}_2$  (black).

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer, the President remarking on the beauty and the smooth working of the experiments.

## Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

### COUNCIL-MEETING.

THE Council met at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on December 6. There were present Messrs. Beggs (Vice-President), Grindley, Bernard, Ryan, Dr. Walsh, Kelly, Michie, P. L. White (Sligo), Wells, and J. E. Connor (Newry).

The VICE-PRESIDENT, in taking the chair, explained that the President was unfortunately ill and unable to attend.

#### IS IT FOR RECIPROCITY?

Mr. Sidney H. Vaughan, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland, attended the meeting, and the VICE-PRESIDENT said he was sure they all joined in a hearty greeting to their friend Mr. Vaughan. They all felt that it was both a pleasure and an advantage to have him amongst them. They heard his address at the evening meeting, but he had something more of importance to say to them. (Applause.)

A conference with Mr. Vaughan then took place in committee.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was received from the Attorney-General of the Isle of Man enclosing a copy of the Pharmacy Bill which had just been passed by the Legislature of that island, containing a provision that the licence of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland should be recognised there.

A letter from the District Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary at Athlone stated that Mr. William Doyle, registered druggist, of that town, had been fined 20s. and costs for a breach of Section 17 of the Irish Pharmacy Amendment Act.

Mr. WELLS said this was the first prosecution under the section mentioned. It was altogether a police prosecution, and was for not having a qualified manager in a "branch" shop kept open for the sale of poisons. There were several other summonses against the defendant, but they were all withdrawn by the police.

A letter was received from Mr. Frederick N. Binks, thanking the Council for having appointed him Professor of Theoretical Chemistry.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: I am sure we have got a very good man in Mr. Binks.

A letter was read from the Principal Medical Officer to the Army in Ireland, asking to be furnished with the names of any pharmaceutical chemists who would be willing to undertake temporarily the duties of compounder of medicines in one of the military hospitals of Dublin.

Mr. WELLS: Anyone who wishes to undertake this can apply to Mr. Ferrall.

#### DEGREE QUESTION DEFERRED.

The next business was an adjourned discussion on a motion made at the last meeting by Professor Titchborne as to the institution of a degree to meet the requirements of the Local Government Board as regards public analysts. As Professor Titchborne was absent in London attending a meeting of the General Medical Council, the discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

#### FOR THE LIBRARY.

Donations were received from the Agent-General for Queensland of a copy of his "Guide to Queensland"; from the British Pharmaceutical Conference of a copy of the "Year-Book for 1899"; from Mr. John Wishart of copies of the "Botanist's Vade Mecum" and of "Schedules for Plant Description"; and from Mr. H. Wippell Gadd, M.P.S.G.B., of a copy of the new edition of his "British Pharmacopœia Synopsis."

Thanks were voted to the donors.

#### ELECTION OF EXAMINERS.

The following appointments were made:—

Mr. Brown and Dr. Tweedy, as examiners for the Preliminary.

Mr. J. Smith, as Botany and Materia Medica examiner for the Licence.



Mr. J. Guiler and Dr. McKenney, as examiners for Registered Druggists in Dublin and Belfast.

Mr. W. V. Johnston, as examiner for Assistants.

#### THE MEMBERSHIP.

On the motion of Mr. GRINDLEY, seconded by Mr. WELLS, the following were elected members of the Society:—Mr. W. J. Burke, Cashel; Mr. J. T. Chamberlain, Dublin; and Mr. J. Henton, Ballinasloe.

Mr. F. W. Warren, of Navan, was nominated for membership.

Other business having been disposed of, the Council adjourned.

#### EVENING MEETING.

A MEETING was held on December 11 at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, Mr. W. F. Wells (ex-President) in the chair.

There was a large attendance despite the inclement weather, the gathering being graced by a number of ladies. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. G. Beggs and Mr. H. Conyngham, and the CHAIRMAN stated that the President (Mr. R. J. Downes) and Professor Tichborne were prevented from attending by illness.

Mr. P. KELLY, M.C.P.S.I., delivered a lantern-lecture on

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANT-LIFE, FROM SEED TO FRUIT, in the course of which he said he hoped his remarks might stimulate; he students to take up the study of botany as a labour of love. Botany had many advantages over scientific pursuits in that it was a most fascinating one, and required only a knife and a sixpenny lens to furnish material from the roadside sufficient to reward the student with an abundance of enjoyment. The lecturer first drew an analogy between plant-life and animal-life, the chief constituents in which were the same. He instanced a cell of yeast and showed that it was built up of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen. The origin of life had been the study of the philosopher for years. Some said life was spontaneously generated, while others held that life could only come from life. Dr. Bastein, F.R.S., had tried to prove that life could be spontaneously produced. He got a flask and immersed hay in the liquid which it contained, sealed the bottle and boiled it, so that no animalculæ could exist, and in time found myriads of bacteria had developed, thus proving to his own satisfaction that life was not an essential to life. Tyndall and Huxley then took the matter up, but as a result of his researches Tyndall was bound to confess that life must be got by life. Much had been said for and against Darwin's theory of evolution. Darwin, however, did not deny that things must be created. His theory was a modification of what already existed. As in animal life the theory of natural selection in plant-life was carried out by man. If certain plants were to be cultivated specially the seeds were preserved, and the pollen from other flowers kept away. As instancing how a quality might develop by culture, the lecturer called attention to the fact that, although a gorilla weighed 20 stone, yet its brain turned the scale at 26 oz. only, while 48 oz. to 76 oz. was the average weight of the brain of a man. He referred humorously to the fact that since ladies began to use bicycles they were beginning to talk less, and he hoped their organs of speech would not suffer from the fact that cycling prevented voluble conversation. Proceeding to the direct subject of his lecture, Mr. Kelly exhibited a number of limelight-views, showing the process of germination, the embryo seed, barley growing, a mangrove-forest, and transverse sections of roots and stems. He also explained and exhibited the peculiarities of the "pitcher-plant" and a fine section of a rhododendron. Vegetation and fructification formed the second part of the lecture. The carriage of pollen by insects was described, and some beautiful specimens of orchids were shown on the screen. The flowers of the thistle defended from beetles and ants evoked a comparison between the British and the Boers, the latter retiring before the enemy. The ants were also compared to chemists, whose labours for the public were not sufficiently appreciated. Sections of belladonna and digitalis were shown, and cross-fertilisation by insects came in for a share of attention. Ferns and their propagation formed the third and concluding part of the lecture, which was delivered throughout in a breezy, interesting style which recommended it to the appreciation of the audience.

## The B.P.C. Formulary.

At a meeting of the Formulary Committee held at 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on December 6 (present Messrs. Martindale, Bird, Martin, Ransom, Wilson, Symes, and Naylor), Mr. Martindale intimated his retirement from the chair, and was thanked for his valuable services during the last thirteen years. Mr. N. H. Martin, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was unanimously elected to succeed him, and Mr. Naylor was reappointed Secretary. It was agreed to invite Mr.

Peter Boa, of Edinburgh, and Mr. H. Wilson, of Southampton, to fill the places vacated by Mr. T. Maben (resigned) and the late Mr. Thomas Greenish. The Secretary was instructed to convey to Mr. Maben the thanks of the members for the able assistance he had rendered the committee from its formation. So as to make the future editions of the Formulary as widely useful as possible, it was agreed to include, as far as convenient, formulæ for all preparations which are generally prescribed by physicians for pharmacists to dispense. With



MR. PETER BOA.

a view to accomplishing this, suggestions from members of the Conference and from pharmacists in all parts of the kingdom will be welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. N. H. Martin, Ravenswood, Low Fell, Gateshead-on-Tyne, or by the Secretary, Mr. W. A. H. Naylor, 38 Southwark Street, S.E.

Mr. Boa, who succeeds Mr. Maben, is the popular Chairman of the North British Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society and an examiner. He has had wide experience as a practical pharmacist in England, Ireland, and Scotland, and succeeded to the late Mr. John



MR. H. WILSON, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Mackay's business. Mr. Wilson is an old pupil of Dr. Thresh's, and was for some years in the laboratories of Messrs. J. Woolley, Sons & Co., of Manchester, before he went to Southampton as a partner in Messrs. Randall & Son's business.

SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR.—"An' hoo's the guid wife, Sandy?"

"Did ye no hear that she's dead and buried?" said Sandy solemnly.

"Dear me! Surely it must have been very sudden?"

"Ay, it was sudden," returned Sandy. "Ye see, when she turned ill we had na time to send for the doctor, sae I gied her a bit pouther that I had lying in my drawer for a year or twa, an' that I got frae the doctor mysel', but hadna' ta'en. What the pouther was I dinna verra weel kin, but she died soon after. It's a sair loss to me, I can assure ye, but it's something to be thankful for I didna tak the pouther mysel'."



## War Notes.

**CHEMISTS IN THE WAR**—We have arranged with our correspondent at Cape Town for cabled messages to be sent regarding any persons connected with the drug-trade who may be wounded, killed, or otherwise involved in the war. Communications from subscribers in South Africa to our correspondent at Cape Town should be addressed to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, P.O. Box 285, Cape Town. When the last steamer left Cape Town the *C. & D.* representative there had received no news of any casualties among chemists who are fighting at the front, of whom there is a goodly number.

**WOUNDED**.—Among the officers wounded in the sortie from Kimberley on November 25 was Captain Rush, who is believed to be the Lieutenant Rn-h of the Cape Mounted Police, a brother of the wife of Mr. F. S. Joint, chemist, South Street, Exeter.

**PETAL-DUST FOR THE SICK-WARDS**—The Rosmarine Manufacturing Company (Limited), Stamford Street, S.E., are supplying the hospital ship *Princess of Wales* with 10,000 packets of their "Petal-dust." We hear also that the *Princess of Wales* has asked that a few packets be sent to her at Sandringham.

**FOR THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS**—A collection amongst the employés of the Lamson-Paragon Supply Company (Limited), Canning Town, E., in aid of the *Daily Telegraph* Widows' and Orphans' Fund, realised the sum of 827s. This amount included 78m. subscribed by German workers in the company's Berlin factory.

**THE CHEMIST AND THE HIGHLANDERS' SPATS**—When it was thought that the Cape Town Highlanders would go to the front it was found necessary to dye their gaiters, white being altogether too good a target for the Boers. A chemist was instructed to do the job, and there was some fun in it, for the men had only one pair each. The chemist went over the whole lot in a very short time, pocketed his money, and walked away with the air of one who knew his business, the dyer's as well.

**AT LEAST ONE CHEMIST** is now in Mafeking, and has been there during the whole of the siege. This is Mr. J. E. Jones, an English Minor man, who is partner in a business which he manages there. Mrs. Jones got further south before the town was besieged. Her confidence in the future of Mafeking and in the safety of her husband is shown by the fact that this week we have received instructions from her to continue her husband's subscription to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and asking for the copies not delivered during the siege to be forwarded to her.

**THE QUEEN'S CHOCOLATE-BOX** is a mystery of the deepest character. Neither the firms who are making the boxes nor the makers of the chocolate are permitted to part with a single box or give even a photograph of them. One of the firms informs us that, "the Queen having expressed the desire that none but her soldiers and sailors in that campaign should receive the tins, special orders have been issued that no more than the required number shall be manufactured, so that when the total number has been completed the dies will be destroyed." This, of course, is just what any other person would stipulate in such circumstances, but everybody is curious to know what the



Queen's box is like. Our contemporary the *Ironmonger* has got at least one authentic piece of information about the boxes—viz., that the background of the tin is royal-red, the medallion gilt, and the monogram, "V.R.I.," red, white, and blue. The sketch which we give is supposed to be the real thing. The first consignment of the chocolate goes out this week.

A SIMILAR SECRECY to that exhibited about the chocolate-box is also exercised in regard to pharmaceutical matters by

the military authorities at the Cape, but our correspondent there has ascertained that the Cape Government Railways, at their Salt River works, have recently completed one of the finest Red Cross trains that has ever seen, or is likely to see, in service. There is no doubt that many of the British railroad-car builders could turn out a more elaborate train, but they are not at the Cape, and it is not likely that their services in this direction will be required in the near future. For one



thing, if ever war should take place in the "tight little island," the country is too thickly populated to admit of such an arrangement as a Red Cross train, hospitals not being so rare and so far apart as in the Cape and Natal. The train itself is made up of six ordinary main-line cars with a saloon in the middle, which does duty at one end as kitchen and at the other as a pharmacy. It is intended to use this train on the western system—i.e., from Cape Town to Kimberley, or beyond if necessary. Similar trains, on not quite such an elaborate scale, will run over other portions of the railroad. The movements are not published, for obvious reasons. [The picture given here represents the car referred to by our correspondent. It is from a photograph.—ED.]

**THE IMPERIAL HOSPITAL AT LADYSMITH** answers its purpose admirably. It comprises the English and Dutch Churches, and the Town Hall. The Röntgen-ray apparatus is being used in the everyday work of the hospital, and is under the care of Sergeant-Major Bruce, who, it will be remembered, used the apparatus with signal effect in the Military Hospital at Omdurman, and he went direct from that place to Natal. Dr. Visser, a surgeon attached to the Boer forces, is in attendance on the Boer wounded, who for the most part are in the Dutch Reformed Church. At Wynberg, Cape Colony, the Military Hospital continues to receive the wounded of both sides, who are brought round the coast in special transports and hospital-ships. The transport of the wounded and the tender care which is awaiting them on the arrival at the hospitals (his one at least) are an object lesson to the world of what can be done in this direction. The war is being conducted as humanely as possible on the British side. The Boers who fell into the hands of Tommy Atkins are a great deal better off than they ever could have been among their own people. The disembarking at the Cape Town docks is carried out with the utmost care and despatch; the more serious cases being landed, bed and all, by steam, and placed on board the Red Cross trains alongside. Then comes a short run of about ten miles to the Wynberg camp, situated on the slopes of the mountain range overlooking False Bay—one of the most beautiful spots in the Cape peninsula. The hospital-ship *Spartan* is at Darban. The officer in charge the other day entertained some local medicos, who expressed their entire satisfaction with the arrangements for receiving the wounded, on board.—Our Cape Correspondent, November 23.

**TRADE-MARKS**.—Messrs. G. Foster Clark & Co., the proprietors of "Eiffel Tower" lemonade, &c., are registering their trade-mark at the Cape. Messrs. Laidlaw, Mackill & Co (Limited), Glasgow, will register their trade-mark on December 9, covering sheet-piles and similar goods.



## Marriages.

**DE BUSH—JORAN.**—On December 6, at St. Margaret's Westminster, by the Rev. J. H. Smith, assisted by the Rev. Cyril Robins, Baron de Bush, of Preshaw, Hants, to Clara Pauline daughter of the late Louis Grund Joran, of Freeport, Illinois, U.S.A.

**VALLANCE—WOOLLEY.**—On December 6, at St. John's Church, Higher Broughton, Manchester, by the Rev. H. J. B. Armstrong, M.A., Rector, assisted by the Rev. J. Birch Jones, B.D., Rector of All Saints', West Gorton, Arthur Clayton Vallance, pharmaceutical chemist (of Messrs. J. Woolley, Sons & Co.'s staff), to Gertrude Daisy, second daughter of the late Percy Woolley, of Manchester.

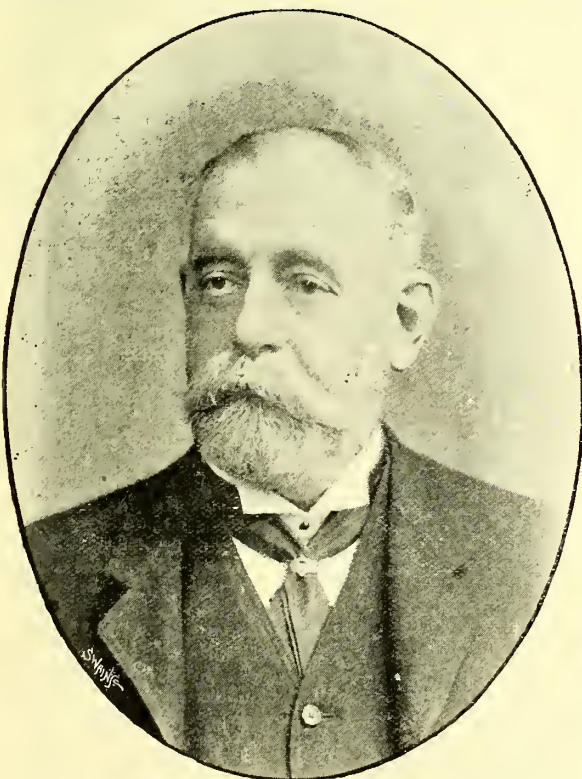
## Deaths.

**GREENWOOD.**—On November 24, Mr. Samuel Greenwood, chemist and druggist, Bradford. Aged 54.

**HEATHCOTE.**—On November 26, Mr. Edward Gilbert Heathcote, chemist and druggist, Bradford. Aged 53.

**JACKSON.**—On December 4, at Whitehaven, Dr. T. Jackson. Aged 65. The deceased served an apprenticeship to the drug-trade with Messrs. Randleson & Forster, chemists, Whitehaven.

**STANFORD.**—At Glenwood, Dalnuir, Dumbartonshire, on December 8, Mr. Edward Charles Cortis Stanford, J.P., F.I.C., F.C.S., pharmaceutical chemist, managing director of the British Chemical Company (Limited). Mr. Stanford was



a son of the late Mr. Charles Cortis, chemist, Worthing and for a period of more than forty years he had been closely associated with pharmaceutical chemistry. He became a student at the School of Pharmacy, Bloomsbury Square, in 1856, and at the end of the session took the highest honours that were available—namely, the medals in chemistry and pharmacy and botany and materia medica. He then became

assistant to the late Professor Redwood, and while acting in that capacity began a research on kelp and iodine manufacture, and delivered lectures on the subject before the Society of Arts. These brought him into notice, and the improved processes of manufacture which he had invented were adopted on a practical scale by Mr. Patterson, of Glasgow, with whom Mr. Stanford became associated, and under his direction the production of iodine at Clydebank became a very profitable industry until the advent of Chilean nitrate crippled it. Although his original process was found on experience to require modification, Mr. Stanford was too clever a chemist not to adapt his ideas to practical ends, and the arrangements of the chemical-factory at Clydebank stand as a memorial of his organising-skill. In several respects it is one of the most complete chemical-factories in the kingdom, every detail of the works having been carefully planned and carried out. Mr. Stanford's original idea for the manufacture of iodine was to extract the salts from seaweed by diffusion and without burning it. This was found to be impracticable on a large scale, and therefore he turned his attention to less wasteful production of kelp. Through his efforts the kelpmakers of Ireland and the Hebrides gradually improved the quality of their product, while the Norwegian kelpmakers under Mr. Stanford's instructions have produced a kelp richer in iodides and more suitable for treatment than either Irish or Scotch kelp. The monograph upon the iodine industry in Thorpe's "Dictionary of Applied Chemistry" was written by Mr. Stanford. It gives those who had not the honour of Mr. Stanford's acquaintance some idea of his intimate knowledge of the subject. Arising from his researches on the isolation of iodides from seaweeds by diffusion, he about fifteen years ago introduced into chemistry a new body called algin, the substance which gives seaweed its peculiar texture. This algin is an exceedingly viscous compound, and there appeared to be a future before it as a sizing-agent, but it never succeeded. One of Mr. Stanford's latest researches with the body was the preparation of an iron salt of it which has been found of considerable therapeutic interest, the compound being apparently more readily assimilated by the blood than any other iron compound. His last research was on the active principle of the thyroid gland, and it resulted in the isolation of thyroglandin. The results of this investigation were communicated to the meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference at Belfast. Mr. Stanford in his early day was an enthusiastic photographer, and while at Bloom-bury Square did a great deal of work in regard to photographic developers. On one occasion he told us that photography at that time required endurance as well as patience, for it was often necessary to sit up all night watching the development of a plate. He had a collection of splendid prints made forty years ago, and it was his intention to write for us a few articles on his experience on the subject. He always kept in touch with pharmacy, and when the Pharmaceutical Conference visited Edinburgh in 1892 he was appointed to the presidential chair, and made a most popular President. On the other hand he was equally intimate with applied chemistry, and was one of the founders of the Society of Chemical Industry, and occupied the presidential chair at the Edinburgh meeting in 1894. He had also been chairman of the Glasgow and West of Scotland section of that Society. Mr. Stanford was a large-hearted man, and exceedingly liberal in his views. His writing and his conversation indicated his wide and varied culture, and the pleasant humour which always characterised him made him popular in all societies. To Clydebank he was a real benefactor, especially in regard to its educational institutions. For some years he was chairman of the School Board, and it was his greatest pride to show to visitors the fine school in the town, which is believed to be one of the most thorough and methodical elementary schools in the world. Mr. Stanford (who assumed this surname early in life) is survived by Mrs. Stanford and a large family. His eldest son, Dr. C. E. Cortis Stanford, graduated at the Glasgow University last year, having previously taken the Bachelor of Science degree at that University.

**TUCKER.**—On December 9, after an operation, Lottie, wife of W. T. Mignot Tucker, chemist, Kingsbridge, Devon.

**ABROWROOT** has now almost ceased to be cultivated in Natal, except to the extent of a few acres in Alexandra.



## Bankruptcies and Failures.

*Re C. H. ROCHE.*

NOTICE is given by the Court of Bankruptcy in Ireland that at a sitting on December 20 inquiry will be made into the affairs of Mr. Charles H. Roche, of the Medical Hall, Cork, recently adjudicated a bankrupt. Moueys due by the debtor will be proved and admitted on the occasion.

*Re GEORGE D. KIRKNESS, West Clyde Street, Helensburgh, Chemist.*

THIS debtor has signed a trust-deed for behoof of his creditors in favour of Mr. James Finlay, accountant, 38 Portland Street, Kilmarnock, to whom claims should be sent in.

*Re EDWARD JAMES FRANCIS GARNER, 251 Netherfield Road North, Liverpool, late of 53 Victoria Street, Douglas, Isle of Man, Chemist and Druggist.*

THIS debtor's accounts show liabilities to unsecured creditors, 450*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and assets consisting of cash deposited with solicitor for costs of petition, 15*l.*; stock-in-trade (cost 100*l.*), 50*l.*; trade-furniture, fittings, &c., 25*l.*; furniture, 15*l.*; making 105*l.*, from which 7*l.* 15*s.* has to be deducted for preference claims, leaving 97*l.* 5*s.*, and showing a deficiency of 353*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*

*Re GEORGE WHYTE, Elgin, Chemist and Druggist.*

THE following are creditors of this debtor:—

	£	s.	d.
Ackrill, Robt., Harrogate ... ..	6	13	1
Armour & Co., London ... ..	3	17	3
Avery, John, & Co. (Limited), Aberdeen...	7	11	11
Benedictus, Henry, & Sons, London ...	20	0	0
Blyton, Astley & Co., Manchester ...	9	0	4
British Syphon Manufacturing Company, London ... ..	10	1	7
Cope Bros. & Co. (Limited), Liverpool ...	21	13	2
Crabbie, J., & Co. (Limited), Leith ...	3	18	0
Crown Perfumery Company, London ...	7	10	0
Day & Sons, Crewe ... ..	2	19	6
Duckworth & Co., Manchester ... ..	21	8	7
Durant & Co., London ... ..	2	1	6
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool ... ..	269	1	9
Fislet, A., London ... ..	6	3	3
Fletcher, Fletcher & Co., London ...	4	3	4
Friedlander & Co., Glasgow ... ..	19	0	0
Gallaher (Limited), Glasgow ... ..	5	5	4
Gillan, A., Elgin ... ..	1	2	6
Higgins, Wm., Glasgow ... ..	1	13	9
Hinshelwood, Thos., & Co., Glasgow ...	2	16	4
Kriegsfeld, B., & Co., Manchester ...	25	19	6
Lambert & Butler, London ... ..	20	14	0
Leath & Ross, London ... ..	5	18	0
Lorimer & Moyes, Glasgow ... ..	10	16	6
Macfarlan, J. F., & Co., Edinburgh ...	2	4	8
Marshalls (Limited), London ... ..	6	14	0
McLardy, Samuel, Manchester ... ..	12	19	2
McWattie, Jas., & Sons, Arbroath ...	12	17	1
Mitchell, S., & Son, Glasgow ... ..	47	17	5
Mould & Tod, Edinburgh ... ..	13	11	0
Paterson, Wm., & Sons, Aberdeen ...	131	14	1
Pinto, De Sola & Co., London ... ..	22	17	0
Sheriffs, J. A., & Co., Edinburgh ...	9	15	0
Shirras, Laing & Co. (Limited), Aberdeen	2	7	9
Smith & Co., London ... ..	16	7	5
Smith, Lewis & Sons, Aberdeen ...	1	16	0
Smith, T. & J., Glasgow ... ..	30	18	6
Spillane, C., Limerick ... ..	2	1	8
Tomlinson & Hayward, Lincoln ...	2	15	0
Wallace & Thom, Glasgow... ..	3	6	9
Waller & Sinclair, Edinburgh ... ..	12	18	0
Bankers' claims ... ..	106	11	2

*Re JOHN LAWRENCE STEWART, 27 North Parade, Bradford.*

THIS debtor, in the course of his public examination at the Bradford Bankruptcy Court on December 7, stated that he had been concerned in certain patents, but had never made anything out of them. Although he had no means last year he became guarantor for the payment of 150*l.* on behalf of Mrs. Stewart. His wife was unable to pay the money, and he was also unable to pay, the result being that he was made

a bankrupt. He sold his furniture in order that his wife might be able to purchase the homœopathic dispensary. He had not contributed to his wife's household expenses for seven or eight years. The debtor was eventually allowed to pass his examination.

*Re BESSIE STEWART, 27 North Parade, Bradford, Homœopathist.*

AT Bradford County Court on December 6, replying to the Official Receiver, this debtor stated that on May 13, 1898, she went into business for the first time in her life. For seven years she and her family had been living on the proceeds of property belonging to her which was sold. In May, 1898, she purchased the homœopathic dispensary in North Parade from Mrs. Worsnop. Mrs. Worsnop asked 150*l.* for the business, but the debtor ultimately agreed to pay 350*l.* to cover goodwill and instruction. The debtor borrowed about 350*l.* from friends and relatives, and a good deal of that money was owing still. During eighteen months she made 150*l.* profit, but she had a difficulty in meeting her payments as they became due, and on October 16 her creditors were called together. Then Mrs. Worsnop filed a petition in bankruptcy against her and her husband. The examination was closed.

*Re NAYLOR, PIKE & GRIMES, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., East India Merchants.*

AN application for an order of discharge was made on December 8, at the London Bankruptcy Court, on behalf of Percy Naylor, a member of this firm, which failed in June, 1892. The accounts showed total liabilities 13,938*l.*, including about 4,000*l.* due to a dozen firms of chemists and patent-medicine manufacturers. The Official Receiver reported that the assets had realised sufficient to pay a dividend of 5*½**d.* in the pound. After hearing the application the report was upheld and the discharge suspended for a further period of two years.

## Deed of Arrangement.

Wyles, William, 9 Kimberley Terrace, Great Yarmouth, chemist and druggist. Trustee, Lovewell Blake, Great Yarmouth, chartered accountant. Dated, December 1; filed December 8. Secured creditors, 980*l.*; liabilities unsecured 943*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; estimated net assets, 607*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Allison, Johnson & Foster (Limited), Hull .. ..	35	0	0
Barclay & Co. (Limited), London .. ..	32	0	0
Barron, Harvey & Co., London .. ..	26	0	0
Bellamy, H., Great Yarmouth .. ..	10	0	0
Caley & Co., Norwich .. ..	41	0	0
Jary, Frank, Great Yarmouth .. ..	75	0	0
Jary, T., Lowestoft .. ..	62	0	0
Lee, G., London .. ..	22	0	0
Lee, E., London .. ..	50	0	0
Lynch & Co. (Limited), London .. ..	12	0	0
Newbery, F., & Sons, London .. ..	11	0	0
Palmer Brothers, Great Yarmouth .. ..	18	0	0
Wilkinson, J. T., Penelton .. ..	10	0	0
Willows, Francis, Butler & Thompson, London ..	12	0	0
Wyles, Mary, Market Deeping .. ..	30	0	0
Wyley, Mrs., Great Yarmouth .. ..	150	0	0
Wyley, Dr., Great Yarmouth .. ..	18	0	0
Bankers' claims .. ..	30	0	0

## Gazette.

### THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

#### RECEIVING ORDERS.

Jeanes, George, Liverpool, chemist.

Tivy, William James, Clifton, physician and surgeon.

#### ADJUDICATIONS.

Brown, Sidney, Caffyn Street, Blackfriars, S.E., and Aytoun Road, Stockwell, S.W., manufacturing perfumer, &c.

Nevitt, John George, Leeds, surgeon.

#### ORDER MADE ON APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

Aldridge, Henry Ernest, Derby, mineral-water manufacturer—discharge suspended for two years, ending November 7, 1901.



## Philadelphia Export Exposition.

(By our Special Correspondent.)

THE National Export Exposition, previously referred to in the pages of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST (September 30, page 547), will be, by the time this report is published, a matter of history. For obvious reasons it is not necessary to refer in detail to the large number of exhibits made and their extensive character, especially in the field of Yankee mechanical inventions, which was most in evidence; but there were a number of exhibits along pharmaceutical and chemical lines that are deserving of warm praise. The real object of the Exposition was to promote U.S. foreign trade, and it has been a signal success. More than 1,200,000 people have attended it. In the course of an interview, Dr. W. P. Wilson (the head of the Commercial Museum), who acted as the Director-General of the Exposition, said:—

The Exposition has done much good to U.S. manufacturing interests. I have now in my possession hundreds of letters from American manufacturers, which demonstrate conclusively that orders aggregating several hundred thousand dollars have been received from abroad that would not have been obtained had the Export Exposition not been held. One of the most important features of the Exposition was the International Commercial Congress. The foreign delegates came to learn the nature of our manufactured goods, to study our commercial systems, and to report their observations to their respective Governments. Nearly all of these delegates were men specially qualified for the work to which they had been assigned, and reports on American products and methods will carry considerable weight with their countrymen. So general is the recognition of the value of the National Export Exposition that a strong effort is being made to hold a similar exposition every year.

That is another story, however. Juries for the award of prizes for the exhibits have been appointed, that for the chemical and pharmaceutical section consisting of Professor Joseph P. Remington (Chairman), Mr. Joseph W. England (Secretary), and Mr. George M. Beringer. The awards have not yet been made public, but a number of medals and diplomas for superiority of products are looked for.

The subjoined notes are upon pharmaceutical and chemical products actually manufactured in the United States.

HANCE BROTHERS & WHITE, of Philadelphia, exhibited pharmaceutical preparations, specialties, and soda-fountain requisites. The display of the first-named class embraced 586 kinds of fluid extracts, 209 kinds of solid extracts, over 100 powdered extracts, 50 kinds of resinoids and concentrations, 1,000 kinds of sugar and gelatin coated pills, 700 kinds of compressed tablets, plain, sugar coated, and chocolate coated, 700 kinds of tablet-triturations, 180 kinds of hypodermic tablets, 250 kinds of lozenges, 90 kinds of syrups, 30 kinds of wines, 250 kinds of elixirs, also tinctures, powders, oleates, cerates, digestive ferments, &c. The pharmaceutical specialties exhibited included certain trademarked and other preparations, some in packages, others in bulk. A series of chemicals was also shown.

SEABURY & JOHNSON, of New York City, made an extensive exhibit of the products of what they termed "an ideal American industry," the firm having been the pioneer in the manufacture of medicinal plasters in indiarubber combinations and antiseptic dressings in the United States. The products embraced rubber combination plasters (standardised wherever possible, that of belladonna being prepared with an extract of assayed alkaloidal strength, the finished-plaster containing 0.5 per cent. of the belladonna alkaloids), rubber adhesive plasters, mustard-plasters, isinglass and court plasters, corn and bunion plasters (these being a felt shield spread with a self-adhesive and medicated disc in the centre, which disc softens and removes the callosity). Absorbent lint and cotton were also shown, and a complete line of antiseptic dressings, in antiseptic containers, for export.

H. K. MULFORD COMPANY, of Philadelphia, exhibited compressed tablets, hypodermic tablets, triturations, lozenges, fluid extracts, elixirs, wines, syrups, and tinctures; also effervescent salts, packed in hermetically-sealed bottles, and digestive malt-extract made from Canadian malt, barley, and hops.

Their exhibit also contained samples of diphtheria-antitoxin, claimed to be "more free from albuminoid substance of the blood than other makes," tetanus-antitoxin, antistreptococcic serum, antipneumococcic serum, and mallein as well as other antitoxines and vaccines.

These are all produced in the firm's own biological laboratories. I noticed that the glycerinated lymph was furnished in a case which serves as a holder for the vaccine virus, a rubber bulb, and a tube. The rubber bulb serves as a cork for the package, and for expelling the fluid lymph from the capillary-tubes. The cap of the case is so made that it may be employed (after reversing the end in the case) as a scarifier, a needle being used on account of the ease with which it may be sterilised in a flame.

SMITH, KLINE & FRENCH COMPANY, of Philadelphia, displayed representative fluid extracts, powdered extracts, oleoresins, resinoids, elixirs, wines, syrups, concentrated liquors, prepared opium, and chemicals for medicinal use and for the arts.

ROSENGARTEN & SONS, of Philadelphia, exhibited quinine sulphate and other salts of cinchona alkaloids, morphine sulphate and other opium products, and a long line of chemicals for pharmaceutical and technical purposes, of beautifully clean appearance, and of superior quality as commercial articles, among which were noted bromides, iodides, hypophosphites, bismuth compounds, scale salts of iron, and metallic salts generally, besides tannin, camphor monobromated, meconic acid, and organic chemical products.

EMIL CAUFFMAN & CO., of Philadelphia, exhibited in original bottles a "ginger brandy" they have been making since 1856. In its manufacture the Jamaica root, deodorised alcohol, sugar, and water are used.

THE CLAWSON COMPANY, of Philadelphia, exhibited vanilla extract made from Mexican bean; ground spices especially selected in the markets, some having been garden-grown productions; and a special toilet-water.

THE VAN VLECK WINTER COMPANY, of Kansas City, Mo., exhibited glandular products obtained from the organs and tissues of healthy sheep, and compressed tablets made from the same.

WILLIAM R. WARNER & CO., of Philadelphia, exhibited soluble-coated pills, granules, and parvules, granular effervescent salts, elixirs, wines, syrups, tablets, &c. For the soluble-coated pills, granules, and parvules, which have already a large export demand, especially for Britain, they claimed "the thorough and scientific admixture of the medicinal ingredients and the addition of a compatible excipient resulting in the presentation of the medicament in a form for rapid disintegration and assimilation, hence maximum benefit of drug employed in minimum of time."

THE KEASBEY & MATTINSON COMPANY, of Ambler, Pa., exhibited various preparations of magnesium carbonate and oxide and granular effervescent salts, in the manufacture of which they have obtained a national reputation for excellence.

JOHN WYETH & BROTHER, of Philadelphia, exhibited a collection of their pharmaceutical preparations, embracing elixirs, syrups, wines, fluid extracts, tinctures, powdered extracts, suppositories, granular effervescent salts, ophthalmic discs, tablets, hypodermic tablets, tablet triturations, lozenges, gelatin capsules, powders, &c. Accuracy, elegance of form, and palatability of products were claimed, especial reference being made to the firm's new gelatine capuled powders. These capsules, it was alleged, presented the minimum of objection which obtains against all artificial pill-coatings, being soft and flexible and readily disintegrated and dissolved, and with contents in a dry-powder form, no excipient being used. They are a very ingenious class of preparation, and are evidently made by hydraulic compression between sheets of soft gelatin similar to the manner of making gelatin perles or liquids.

FRIEND: "And did the doctors give you up?" Convallescent: "Yes, but they kept everything else."

FROM A FRENCH SUBSCRIBER.—"Ci-inclus, le montant de mon abonnement à votre journal, toujours très intéressant." (94/3)

DR. OCHME'S plan of aborting boils and carbuncles is to apply, three or four times in twelve hours, collodion containing 1 to 2 gr. of salicylic acid to 1 dr.



## Personalities.

A GOOD portrait of the Baroness de Bush was printed in last week's *Sketch*. We also observe one of Mrs. Fred Reynolds in the Christmas number of the *Ladies' Realm*, à propos of her new novel.

DR. MORGAN DOCKRELL, whose case against the Sullyco Mineral Water Company was reported in the *C. & D.*, April 29, page 676, has been presented with a service of plate and an illuminated address. The presentation was subscribed by medical men in recognition of Dr. Dockrell's services in contesting the case and as a solatium for the heavy legal expenses incurred.

COUNCILLOR JOSEPH BEECHAM, J.P., the recently elected Mayor of St. Helens, departed from the usual procedure by making the first of the public functions in connection with his office a grand orchestral concert. The gathering was one of the most brilliant which has been seen in the town for some years, for the orchestra engaged was the celebrated combination of which the late Sir Charles Hallé was for many years conductor. The present conductor, Dr. Richter, was unable to be present owing to engagements in Vienna, and Mr. Thomas Beecham, jun., son of the Mayor, and a musician of considerable ability, wielded the baton in a highly satisfactory manner. The programme included orchestral selections from Wagner, Beethoven, Tchaikowsky, and Berlioz, and vocal items of a high order by Miss Lillian Blauvelt.

MR. THOMAS SMITH, head of the firm of Smith's Printing and Publishing Agency, of London and St. Albans, has presented to the employés of the firm at St. Albans an institute, which will be known as the Fleetville Club and Institute. To celebrate the opening of the institution Mr. Smith, on December 2, entertained the whole of the firm's employés, together with a number of friends, to a sumptuous tea in one of the large rooms of the Fleet Printing Works at St. Albans. Mr. Smith presided over the gathering and introduced Alderman and Sheriff Treloar, who handed the deed of conveyance of the land and building to the Mayor of St. Albans, who in turn presented them to Mr. Townson, the manager. As a token of their appreciation of the handsome gift the employés presented to Mr. Smith an album, signed by every employé, and an address of thanks.

## Trade Notes.

WE shall be glad if users of the DIARY will add to the list of telegraphic addresses that of the manufacturer of John Bond's Crystal Palace Marking-ink, which is "Actinic London."

MESSRS. A. M. POST (LIMITED), 96 and 98 Leadenhall Street, E.C., manufacturers of Post's C.B.Q., have joined the Proprietary Articles Trade Association, and consequently the C.B.Q. will in future be sold at protected rates.

BLAUD PILLS—Blaud pills in new illuminated boxes are offered by Mr. Stephen Wand, of Leicester. The pills can be obtained either white or pink coated. Tins containing a gross are offered at a remarkably low price, and Mr. Wand will send a sample tin to any subscriber who sends him 3½d. in stamps.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DIARY—The Wellcome Photographic Diary has taken so well that Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. inform us a third edition has had to be printed. Chemists who are wanting a supply of the diaries for their photographic customers should order them as early in the month as possible.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—As mentioned in the first page our offices will be closed from Dec. 22 until Dec. 27. We also learn that Messrs. Barclay & Son (Limited), druggists' sundriesmen, &c., Farringdon Street, will be shut on December 25 and 26, and again on December 29 and 30, the latter for stocktaking. Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney, wholesale druggists, Southwark Street, will be closed on the same

dates. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., inform us that they will be closed on December 25 and 26.

ARTISTIC SHOW-CARDS.—Messrs. Durant & Co., Rosebery Avenue, E.C., the originators of Dylissia toilet preparations, have sent us samples of two exquisite show-cards which they are now offering to the trade. One is pictorial, and represents the pensive maiden, to whom we have previously referred, who sits on a grassy bank, with a woodland glade as background. It is framed in green and gold. The companion show-card is framed in white and gold, and is a well-balanced design in colours and gold, with cornflowers as the only floral decoration. This card is also very effective.

CHINOSOL TABLETS—The two latest forms in which chinisol is presented for use are chinisol sanitary tablets and chinisol bath and toilet tablets. The Chinisol Hygienic Company, 36 St. Mary-at-Hill, E.C., in sending us samples of these new tablets, call our attention to the increasing use of chinisol as a non-poisonous and non-irritant disinfectant, and prophesy that when the virtues of chinisol are more known it will be an important item of sale with chemists. The sanitary tablets are put up in boxes containing three or six tablets. The bath-tablets are put up in screw-capped bottles, and are beautifully performed.

VIBRONA ART.—Messrs. Fletcher, Fletcher & Co. (Limited), Holloway, London, N., the manufacturers of Vibrona, have just published the first of a series of historic English pictures, which they are offering to the public direct or through retailers of Vibrona. It is a reproduction of Goodall's "Cranmer at the Traitor's Gate," a familiar picture to all visitors to the South Kensington Museum. The picture is reproduced by G. Weatherman & Co., of Enfield, in sepia, on plate paper, measuring 20 by 25. It is an excellent reproduction of the original. The proprietors of Vibrona are inserting a leaflet in most of the popular magazines in regard to the picture. The leaflet bears a reduced facsimile of the picture, with particulars as to how it is to be obtained. They offer to send a copy to any address within the United Kingdom, or in the Postal Union, for 2s. 6d., and they inform us that they are prepared to supply chemists with the pictures on favourable terms for retailing. Any of our subscribers who stock Vibrona can obtain a supply of the leaflets on application.

## Trade-Marks Applied for.

Anyone who objects to the registration of a trade-mark must address the Comptroller-General, Patent Office, Chancery Lane, W.C., within a month of the date of publication.

When "no claim" is mentioned in the subjoined abstracts, this implies "no claim for the exclusive use of the word" in inverted commas.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," November 15, 1899.)

"SAL-VINTO" (no claim for "Sal-Vin"); for effervescent saline and febrifuge powder. By W. R. Hoare, 6 Railway Place, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

"MENTOLOGIN"; for cough, &c., pastilles. By H. Davis, 36 Northbrook Street, Newbury, Berks. 226,133.

"OOWANA"; for toilet-soaps and requisites, &c. By the Nirmalla Soap Company, 91a Billiter Buildings, E.C. 226,150.

Signature of applicant; for polishing-preparation. By F. Willmer, 1 Loftus Road, Shepherd's Bush London. 223,103.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," November 22, 1899.)

"PHOSALITE" (no claim for "Phos"); for chemical substance. By W. B. Bottomley, King's College, Strand, W.C. 224,954.

"WINDER'S WHITE PILLS, &c.," and border device (which is the essential particular); for a tonic pill. By J. Nuttall, 196 Ashton Road, Oldham. 224,307.

"ONIT"; for an embrocation. By Oatley Brothers, 45 Market Street, Chorley, Lancs. 225,725.

"TIGER"; for saccharin. By the Anglo-Continental Chemical works (Limited), 1 and 2 Rangoon Street, E.C.

"SAPADOR" (no claim for "Sapo"); for perfumed soap and perfumery. By the Naamloze Vennootschap Sapador Fabriek, Langestraat 5, Amsterdam. 224,731.



"ZWINA"; for perfumed soaps. By G. Baldwin & Co., 77 Walworth Road, London. 225,527.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," November 29, 1899.)

"TUBOL" (no claim for "Tube"); for photographic and pharmaceutical chemicals. By R. E. Liesegang, Dusseldorf, Germany. 225,739, 225,740.

"KASLENE"; for vermin-exterminators. By R. L. Snow, 1 Fell Street, E.C. 225,856.

"DIXLOR"; for wash for killing insects on hops, fruit-trees, &c. By J. Dixon, Sons & Taylor, 26 Market Street, Bermondsey, S.E. 226,307.

"VALSANG"; for chemicals. By F. W. Vallis, Bromham, near Chippenham. 226,486.

"SANTOVIN"; for veterinary preparations. By S. Pettifer & Sons, Malmesbury, Wilts. 226,575.

"PEDO"; for cure for corns, warts, and bunions. By Field, Breeze & Co. (Limited), 70 Oxtou Road, Birkenhead. 225,512.

"BORONIA," and wording on circular label (the essential particular is the word "Boronia"; no claim for "Boron"); for skin-ointment. By the Boronia Company, 1 The Gables, Milward Crescent, Hastings. 216,811.

Signature of applicant; for chemical substances. By E. W. Grove, Asheville, North Carolina, U.S.A. 225,517.

"ECTODYNE"; for medicines. By B. R. Sumner & Co., 50A Lord Street, Liverpool. 225,789.

"ANTIGERMINE" (no claim for "Antigerm"); for a chemical substance. By W. Ernst, Georgstrasse 40, Hanover. 226,005.

"MENTOLOCIN"; for cough, &c., pastilles. By H. Davis, 36 and 37 Northbrook Street, Newbury. 226,133.

"ORANGEINE" (no claim for "Orange"); for chemical substances. By J. Morgan Richards, 46 Holborn Viaduct, E.C. 226,287.

"CITROPHEN"; for goods in Class 3. By J. Roos, Frankfurt-on-Main. 226,322.

"GRAMA"; for cameras and photographic apparatus. By the Grama Camera Company, 101 The Albany, Old Hall Street, Liverpool. 224,964.

"DULCENIA"; for perfume. By W. H. Caffyn, 6 Lorne Villas, Marlboro' Road, South Woodford. 225,953.

"THRONE"; for perfumery and toilet-articles, &c. By E. Cook & Co. (Limited), East London Soapworks, Bow, E. 226,534.

"EASY MARY"; for polishing-paste. By E. Mitchell & Sons, 5 Burnett Place, Bradford. 225,918.

## Business Changes.

MESSRS. CAMERON & HAMILTON are opening a branch drug-store in Sir Lowry Road, Cape Town.

MR. ALBERT THORPE, pharmaceutical chemist, has opened a handsome pharmacy at 7 Grand Parade, Highgate, N.

MR. ERNEST PREBBLE, who was for some years with Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., of Liverpool, has taken over the business lately carried on by Mr. Wynne Thomas at 187 Kensington, Liverpool.

MR. A. C. PATERSON, chemist and druggist, has moved into his new premises, The Victoria Pharmacy, Douglas, I.M. The shop, which is handsomely fitted up in mahogany, is built on the site of a part of the Victoria Street, Wesleyan Chapel.

MESSRS. BRYANT & AITKENS, foreign and colonial brokers, 28 Market Buildings, Mincing Lane, E.C., have dissolved partnership. Mr. A. J. Aitkens will continue to carry on the business under the name of A. J. Aitkens & Co., at the above address, and Mr. Thos. Bryant will carry on business at 5 Market Buildings, under the style of Thomas Bryant & Co.

MR. J. LAWRENSEN, chemist and druggist, who has shops in Salford Road, Bridge Street, and Chorlton-cum-Hardy, is closing the last-named pharmacy, having already disposed of his fixtures. A correspondent writes:—"Although Chorlton-cum-Hardy is one of the most thriving of the Manchester suburbs, it has not proved a happy settling ground for pharmacists. I hear of another chemist and druggist in the village who would be glad to meet with a purchaser for it."

## Asafetida.

By JOHN C. UMNEY.

THE statement of the British Pharmacopœia, 1898, that asafetida should contain not less than 65 per cent. of matter soluble in alcohol (90-per-cent.), and should yield not more than 10 per cent. of ash when incinerated, has been the subject of previous comment (see *C. & D.*, vol. lii., 1898, page 131). Mr. C. G. Moor has recently dealt with the subject exhaustively, and an abstract of his communication to the Society of Public Analysts was printed in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST last week, page 953. Mr. Moor is reported to have stated that the sophistication of asafetida "was intentional, as pure samples could be had, one examined giving only 7 per cent. of ash." Mr. E. M. Holmes, who was also present at the meeting, stated that he had examined asafetida, and found that "although it was a very much mixed drug, still pure samples were obtainable."

Mr. Holmes is also reported to have stated at the same meeting that "as referee of the British Pharmacopœia Committee, he had examined asafetida," and therefore presumably on his statements the stringent requirements of the British Pharmacopœia were based.

It should be noted first of all that the solubility requirements of the British Pharmacopœia are more stringent than those of other Pharmacopœias, even that of the United States, which requires that 60 per cent. at least should be soluble in its official alcohol (94-per-cent.).

Having had the opportunity of examining many of the very finest packages of asafetida of trade during the last eight years, it may be interesting to record the fact that in no instance could average samples of such cases be obtained complying with the present requirements of the British Pharmacopœia, although selected tears from various cases of the drug may do so. Although one naturally is in favour of adopting the very highest possible standard for drugs of this kind for medicinal use, still there is a difficulty in accepting as a standard one that is, at the moment, unobtainable in trade, although one of course hopes that by the setting-up of such a standard the sophistication which now undoubtedly occurs will be discontinued, and a far purer drug sent to this country.

Ash.—The ash of selected tears of asafetida often falls as low as 4 per cent., but experiments that I have had made on cases from which such picked tears can be obtained show that when the whole case is powdered the ash is not less than 16 or 17 per cent., making due allowance for the loss in weight for drying and powdering (about 10 to 11 per cent.). The following table of the ash of various samples of asafetida recently obtained in trade shows fairly conclusively the general character of asafetida met with. The sample No. 5 is one from the finest procurable case of asafetida on the London drug-market—it being distinctly understood, of course, that it is based upon an average sample of the drug, and not a few specially selected tears:—

*Ash yielded by Gum-resin.*

1	...	...	3.2 per cent. (picked tears)
2	...	...	4.8 " "
3	...	...	5.77 " "
4	...	...	13.9 " "
5	...	...	21.5 " (mixed tears and mass)
6	...	...	35.5 " (mass)
7	...	...	44.1 " "
8	...	...	45.7 " "
9	...	...	57.8 " "
10	...	...	62.2 " "



*Ash yielded by Powdered Gum-resin.*

11	...	...	21.5	per cent.
12	...	...	29.4	"
13	...	...	31.3	"
14	...	...	45.3	"
15	...	...	57.7	"

**Solubility in Alcohol.**—The requirement of the United States Pharmacopœia as to solubility in alcohol is that 60 per cent. should dissolve (this has been stated to be difficult to obtain in the American market; *Pharm. Journal*, 1896, vol. i., page 243)—5 per cent. less than the Brit. Pharm. requires should be soluble. Dieterich has already stated in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, 1893, vol. lii., page 131, that in his opinion the proportion soluble in alcohol required by the Brit. Pharm. is too high, and that 50 per cent., the limit of the German Pharmacopœia, would be preferable. He objects also to the method of determination, suggesting that it would be better to determine the portion insoluble in alcohol rather than that soluble. This must, of course, be obvious, as the proportion of volatile oil in asafetida varies from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 per cent. or thereabouts. As a matter of fact, the solubility in alcohol varies, so far as I have been able to determine, from 24 per cent. to 80 per cent., the determination being made from the amount insoluble and not from the proportion soluble. These figures have a considerable bearing upon the production of tincture of asafetida if the proportion of gum-resin required to be present be inferred from the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia in the case of the drug. The following are the proportions of nine samples soluble in alcohol, the figures being determined by difference:—

1	...	...	79.8	per cent.
2	...	...	50.85	"
3	...	...	51.5	"
4	...	...	48.6	"
5	...	...	48.4	"
6	...	...	46.1	"
7	...	...	29.7	"
8	...	...	21.5	"
9	...	...	21.1	"

The solubility-test of the British Pharmacopœia is in alcohol of 90-per-cent. strength, but I find by experiment there is a difference between the proportions soluble in alcohol of that strength and 70-per-cent. alcohol, which is the strength of the menstruum indicated in the instructions for the tincture in the British Pharmacopœia. As a matter of fact, figures obtained from various samples are not proportional or identical, and are as under:—

	Soluble in 90-per-cent. alcohol	Soluble in 70-per-cent. alcohol
No. 1 (mixed tears and mass)...	50.85 per cent.	46.1 per cent.
" 2 (mass) ...	30.7	39.55
" 3 (selected tears) ...	66.9	68.9

Taking, therefore, the requirement of the British Pharmacopœia that 65 per cent. should be soluble in 90-per-cent. alcohol, and assuming (which is not strictly correct) the same proportion should be soluble in 70-per-cent. alcohol, then 100 c.c. of the tincture should leave a residue of 13 grammes, provided none of such residue were volatile, or 12 grammes if allowance is made for the volatile constituents of the asafetida. How, then, are the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia to be met in regard to the drug and tincture?

**Drug.**—Until the high standard fixed in the Brit. Pharm. has had its influence upon the gum-resin as found in commerce, raising the purity of same, it will be necessary to sell a drug which (except in the case of selected tears) will contain a higher ash than required by the Brit. Pharm. For that reason some wholesale druggists have

for a year or more printed on their prices current the proportions of ash yielded by various grades of powdered asafetida. This seems at the moment to be the best method to adopt in such sales, as, notwithstanding Mr. Holmes's statement to the contrary, I am at the moment unaware where asafetida in any commercial quantity answering the pharmacopœial requirements can be obtained. Tears of asafetida could be picked answering the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia, but I am certain that a case of the finest drug that ever enters the port of London would not yield 5 per cent. of the drug of the official standard.

**Tincture**—The best means of getting over the difficulty in the case of the tincture, if a standard is to be inferred from the British Pharmacopœia requirement as to solubility of the drug in 90-per-cent. alcohol, appears to be the use of a greater proportion of the commercial drug, which might have to be nearly double that required by the British Pharmacopœia, and standardization of the tincture so that 100 c.c. yield 12 grammes of extractive. The only other method would be by the use of a purified strained asafetida, somewhat on the lines of strained ammoniacum and strained storax; but a great objection to this would be that a considerable proportion of the volatile constituents of the asafetida would be lost, and as the medicinal value is largely due to these, as evidenced by the continued demand for spt. ammon. fetid, it would be in many respects objectionable.

## Scientific Progress.

**A New Antiseptic.**—According to L. Coste a very powerful antiseptic is prepared by the following method:—Forty parts of finely-powdered salicylic acid, 35 parts of guaiacol, and 25 parts of phosphorus oxychloride are heated together for two hours in a water-bath. The reaction-product when cold is diluted with water, and alkali is added. The insoluble residue is crystallised from an organic solvent, when the new body is obtained as a fine white micro-crystalline powder melting at 69°.—*Pharm. Rundschau*, xxv., 46.

**Poplar-bud Oil.**—Fichter and Katz (*Berichte*, xxxii., 3184) have re-examined the essential oil of the poplar-bud, and have shown that the principal constituent is not, as Piccard previously stated, a diterpene,  $C_{20}H_{32}$ , but a sesquiterpene, which appears to be identical with that discovered by Chapman in oil of hops, and named by him humulene. The assumption of this identity is based on the comparison of the melting points of certain derivatives, which come out closely alike. There is possibly another sesquiterpene present in traces, and also small quantities of solid paraffins.

**The Estimation of Phosphorus in Phosphorated Oil.**—According to Louise (*Comptes Rendus*, August 14, 1899) the following reaction may be used as a quantitative process for the estimation of free phosphorus in fatty oils. A solution of silver nitrate gives with a phosphorated oil (dissolved in twenty volumes of acetone) a black precipitate varying in intensity according to the amount of phosphorus present. A 10-per-cent. solution of silver nitrate should be used, and this is standardised with a phosphorated oil of known strength, the exact volume necessary to completely precipitate being noted. The amount of phosphorus present in any sample is in direct proportion to the amount necessary to thus completely precipitate the phosphorus.

**Oil of Quince.**—The seeds of the quince yield, when extracted with ether or petroleum ether, about 15 per cent. of fatty oil of a pale colour and bland odour and taste. Herrmann (*Arch. Pharm.* 237, 358) has examined this oil and gives for it the following constants:—

Sp. gr. at 15.5° ...	0.922
Refractive index ...	1.47292
Saponification-number ...	18.17
Iodine-absorption ...	113.0 per cent.
Solidifying-point ...	13.5°
Acid-number ...	3.17 (per cent. KOH)
Insoluble fatty acids ...	95.2 per cent.

Amongst the fatty acids found in this oil were a liquid acid of the formula  $C_{17}H_{33}(OH)COOH$ , of sp. gr. .8931, and a small quantity of myristic acid and an acid which was either pentadecylic acid or an isomer.



## Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

THE COMPANY-VIEW of the company-problem in pharmacy would not be assured of a friendly hearing from chemists, but Mr. Boot's speech to his shareholders, reported last week, is somewhat startling. The "stalwarts" I suppose will be more against the qualified directorate than ever now that they see their arch-enemy advocating its principle, but that little speech of his ought to have considerable effect on our legislators if brought before them at the proper time. Mr. Boot "really feels," now, that his successors in carrying on the business he has made "should be those who have had, first, a training as chemists, and then the further advantage of having been trained to the business experience of a firm like ours." This is all very well for posterity; what some of us urge is that the realisation of Mr. Boot's ideal should be pushed on a bit for the benefit of the present generation.

\* \* \* \* \*

A TIP FOR THE COUNCIL.—I gather from the leading article in the *C. & D.*, though it does not appear in the report of the Council-meeting, that "the certain course agreed upon which it was not advisable to make public" (the President's expression, which is so familiar that it reads like a quotation) is to interview the Lord Chancellor or some other person in charge of the Companies Bill. A very wise proceeding, I should think, presuming they have something definite and sensible to say to him. But it will be neither edifying nor helpful to give his Lordship a *résumé* of the opinions so far expressed by their constituents, nor even those of the Council itself—at least if they are such as they were when the veil was last drawn aside from them in debate. Perhaps, however, they have grown unanimous since then. But, failing a distinct policy of their own, they could hardly do better than take a cutting of Mr. Boot's remarks with them, and read them to the Lord Chancellor.

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. BOOT'S POLICY reminds me of the old story of the member for Ludgershall, which may not be familiar to the present generation. When the Reform Bill of 1832 was being discussed in Committee, and the proposal to disfranchise Ludgershall was reached in due course, the honourable member rose and said, "Sir, I am the member for Ludgershall; I am the owner of Ludgershall, and I am the only elector of Ludgershall. In all these capacities I vote for the disfranchisement of Ludgershall." Mr. Boot proposes to disfranchise, not himself, but his successors; which is not quite so generous.

\* \* \* \* \*

BAD BLOOD FOR FLEAS.—Dr. Fred Edge, of Wolverhampton, has the misfortune to possess blood which is peculiarly tempting to fleas. If any of his out-patients bring one into his presence, the discriminating insect (he tells the readers of the *British Medical Journal*) at once forsakes its former host for the doctor's blood. But Dr. Edge has found a way of spoiling the brand from the flea point of view. He accomplishes this by simply chewing sulphur lozenges. The fleas then merely run about his skin and tickle him, but are too wary to bite. Perhaps the same prophylactic will disappoint other insects of prey—mosquitoes, for instance. If it will, there is a new boom in store for sulphur lozenges.

\* \* \* \* \*

JUSTICE AT THE HIGH COURT.—If the statement of the defendant in the Yorkshire Relish case, reported last week, was anywhere near the truth, it is an amazing illustration of the injustice we have to put up with in this lawyer-ridden

country. At the refreshment-rooms in the High Court of Justice, of all places, some other sauce had been served in a Yorkshire Relish bottle. Mr. Elliott, the proprietor of the business, admitted the fault and consented to an injunction. The plaintiffs' counsel stated that there was no imputation against the defendant personally, but this gentleman told the Court that the case had cost him 250*l*.<sup>\*</sup> That remark, Mr. Justice Byrne said, was irregular: he could not listen to it. Why not, indeed? The remark seems to have been a very pertinent one. If Mr. Elliott had been prosecuted criminally under the Merchandise-marks Act for this offence, a 5*l*. fine would have been a stiff one. I do not suppose that Messrs. Goodall, Backhouse & Co. are to blame: they are, of course, justified in defending their property. It is the mischievous theory that lawyers must live which is at the bottom of this injustice; and the Judge who jumps on the defendant who speaks for himself, as he has a perfect right to do, and stigmatises his objection to the everlasting pay, pay, pay, of legal proceedings as irregular, is scarcely the ideal Judge for a democratic nation.

\* \* \* \* \*

BLACK AND LAVOISIER.—We are indebted to Dr. Dobbin for reminding us, as he did last week, of the great services which Joseph Black, who died just a hundred years ago, rendered to scientific chemistry. But I would have read the article with greater pleasure if Dr. Dobbin had said less against the greatest chemist of all time—Lavoisier. I know it has been asserted that Lavoisier published some of Black's experiments as his own. In the main Dr. Dobbin himself refutes this charge. He says Lavoisier "gives a short but moderately fair statement of Black's discoveries." But Lavoisier, he goes on to tell us, claims to have presented Black's theory in a more perfected form than Black himself had given it, and this claim Dr. Dobbin characterises as "simply untrue." There is no space here to discuss the subject in detail, but it is evident that the worst that can be said of Lavoisier is that he preferred his own way of stating the facts; and this rather human tendency should not be confused with deliberate mendacity. Moreover, against that perhaps unfortunate footnote of Lavoisier's it may be permissible to quote from the note which accompanied the copy of the "Opuscles" which the young French chemist sent to the Royal Society of London. "I beg you," he wrote, "to accept a treatise, the essence of which belongs partly to you, and to which I have only added a few facts which I believe to be new. . . . It is to Messrs. Boyle, Hales, and Black, names for ever celebrated in physical and chemical science, that the doctrine of the fixation of air owes its origin." Dr. Dobbin also suggests that Black preceded Lavoisier in inaugurating "the quantitative method in chemical investigation." That Black weighed things before Lavoisier did needs no proving, and that the particular research which resulted in the discovery of carbonic-acid gas was carried out with model precision is unquestionable. But it was Lavoisier, and not Black, who made the balance the ultimate test of all analysis; who laid down the great principle, so obvious now, so difficult to realise then, that in all the changes of matter nothing is created, nothing is destroyed; and who, as a crowning glory of his exact gravimetric methods, perceived and demonstrated the falsity of that phlogiston theory which had so long prevented Black, Priestley, and Cavendish from comprehending the value of their own discoveries. It is right to add that Black, who was as unprejudiced as Lavoisier himself, became an early convert to his French contemporary's views.

\* We have ascertained that the plaintiffs' costs have not yet been taxed, so that the sum stated is in the nature of a surmise.  
—ED.



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**Editorial Comments.**

**Doctors' Dispensers.**

WE referred last week to the extraordinary manner in which the committee of the General Medical Council has dealt with the question of dispensing in doctors' surgeries. It will be remembered that the whole matter arose through a fatality resulting from an unqualified dispenser to a doctor giving a patient 50 grains of morphine instead of one-and-a-half drachm of solution. Mr. Glyn-Jones called the attention of the Pharmaceutical Council to the matter, and even tried to get the annual meeting of the Society to take it up, but was prevented. Meanwhile, Mr. Alfred Cooper and Mr. Oglesby, as well as Mr. Glyn-Jones, brought the subject under the notice of the Privy Council, who, in turn, referred it to the General Medical Council. The Executive Committee of the latter sent up a perfunctory report last June, but the whole matter was again entrusted to a special committee, which, after six months, submitted the following report:—

The question of the employment of unqualified dispensers is a somewhat complicated one. In the first place there is the legal aspect. Two bodies possess a certain amount of authority in the examination and certification of dispensers—the Society of Apothecaries and the Pharmaceutical Society.

By their Act (1815) the Apothecaries have authority to examine and certify "assistants to apothecaries," and to prosecute "any person who, in England or Wales, shall act as assistant to any

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apothecary to compound and dispense medicines without having obtained such certificates." This power of prosecution would seem to be limited to persons employed by "apothecaries," and is practically unused, no complaint having been made to the Society on the question.

The Pharmaceutical Society gives a qualification without which it is unlawful for any person to sell, or keep open shop for retailing, dispensing or compounding poisons, or assume the title of chemist and druggist; but it appears to be legal for an unqualified assistant to dispense medicines containing poisons provided the chemist is on the premises.

In the second place there is the practical aspect of the question.

Setting aside the minor dispensing which medical men carry out themselves without outside help, there is the dispensing on a larger scale (and on old-fashioned lines), which exists chiefly in the practice of the older members of the profession, and in outlying districts. This is carried on sometimes by unqualified dispensers who have been trained in the work for years, and have become, from long experience, expert and safe; sometimes by dispensers who have obtained certificates, either from the Society of Apothecaries or the Pharmaceutical Society. On this point may be quoted the statement by Mr. Upton, solicitor to the Society of Apothecaries, that "during the last two years there have been 320 candidates, 171 of whom succeeded in obtaining the certificates (64 males and 107 females)."

The committee, having carefully considered the whole matter, believe that the transition from the small amount of dispensing which a medical man can without difficulty perform himself to the larger amount requiring the services of a special dispenser is so gradual that it would be impossible to draw a line and say at what point a qualified person becomes indispensable.

Under these circumstances the committee do not see their way to recommend any course to be taken by the Council at the present time in reference to this question, but they endorse the reply sent by the Executive Committee to the Privy Council:—

"That, whilst they fear that occasional accidents may arise from the employment by qualified medical practitioners of careless or incompetent dispensers, the cases, in their opinion, are very rare, and it appears to the committee that probably the best protection is afforded to the public by the responsibility of the practitioner for the acts or defaults of the servants whom he employs."

It thus appears that the Council, while adopting the report with commendation, fail to see (perhaps willingly) that the essence of the danger lies in the fact that not once in fifty times can the accidents resulting from unqualified dispensing be discovered. But the committee really fall back on a *tu quoque* argument, in which they state the law as it governs the sale of poisons in misleading language. "It appears to be legal," says the report, "for an unqualified assistant to dispense medicines containing poisons, provided the chemist is on the premises." Presuming they mean the word "dispense" to cover the word "sell"—and otherwise there is no sense in the argument—they must know that the chemist being "on the premises" is not a correct rendering of Mr. Justice Hawkins's dictum that he must personally supervise the sale. The next move now lies with the Pharmaceutical Council. There are hundred of sales of poisons conducted daily in surgeries by unqualified persons without any personal supervision by a qualified man, and it is a mockery of the law to allow this to continue. Mr. Glyn-Jones, who first made this complaint public, is now in a position to effectively press his views on the actual administrators of the Act, and it is to be hoped he will do so.

We observe that the *Medical Press* frankly admits that

The whole fabric of medical practice is based on the employment of unqualified dispensers, and any modification of existing arrangements would entail what would almost amount to a dislocation. We doubt whether public opinion is, as yet, sufficiently alive to the drawbacks of the present system to insist on a change. The bogey of accidental poisoning, trotted out by pharmaceutical agitators for trade purposes, has not had the desired effect, and, as far as one can judge, practitioners are not likely to be molested in this respect for some time to come.

The admission is, apparently, the motive which induced the General Medical Council to adopt its utterly bad resolution. We are pleased to have the admission—first, because it disproves the *Press's* assertion that the agitation is based on a

bogey. Lack of qualification in dispensers is not a shade less serious than the same lack in medical practitioners—it is even more serious, considering that the dispenser is the person who prepares the remedy. We trust that the General Medical Council's decision will not end the matter. There is room for that thorough inquiry which the Council does not appear to have instituted.

## Chemical Developments.

THE report which has been issued to the Fellows and associates of the Institute of Chemistry during the past week contains some matters of general interest. In the first place, we note that the Institute has secured the support of the Local Government Board to its contention that the diploma of the body will be accepted as evidence of qualification for the position of public analyst. It is curious that a few days before the Board intimated this decision to the Institute Mr. Long, as the Minister in charge of the Bill (since become law) amending the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, declined to accept a suggestion by a deputation that a qualification for public analyst—preferably that of the Institute—should be incorporated in the Bill. It is also notable that the thing which appears to have moved the Local Government Board is the examination in therapeutics, pharmacology, and microscopy, recently arranged by the Council of the Institute against the wishes of a large number, if not the majority, of the Fellows. The certificate of this examination is the primary recognition by the L.G.B., "together with the diploma of Fellowship or Associateship," as the Board puts it. This is a feather in the cap of Dr. Thomas Stevenson, the originator of the new examination, who seems to have known wherein the Institute's diploma was weak from the Government point of view. We cannot, however, say much in favour of the examination which he personally conducts: it is a paltry thing at the best, as the questions set at the last one show. They were as follows:—

1. Examine the given specimen of coffee by the microscope, and report as to its purity.
2. Examine the given specimen of saffron, and report as to its purity.
3. State the maximum safe doses for an adult of the following substances: opium, strychnine, croton oil, phosphorus.
4. What effects result from the daily taking of small doses of copper salts?
5. How is boric acid used in the preservation of food? State what is known as to its effects upon the human system, and how far it affects the digestibility of food preserved by it.

Six out of eight candidates passed. It will be observed that questions 4 and 5 are distinctly outside the province of the analyst: these are matters which the medical officer of health should look after. It is clear, however, that the Institute is developing far beyond the original idea of its character. Thus, at the suggestion of Professor Percy F. Frankland bacteriology has been added to the list of optional subjects which candidates for the associateship may take, and to the subjects of the final examination which candidates may select there is added "biological chemistry as applied to questions affecting public health, with special reference to the chemistry and bacteriology of foods, water, and sewage. The practical applications of biological chemistry to industries." Candidates who take this branch are recommended to take a course of forty to fifty lectures on the morphology and physiology of micro-organisms, including their relationship to public health, agriculture, and industry, with practical work on "microscopy; the preparation and study of pure cultures; and the conduct of fermentation-experiments and the study of chemical changes brought about by bacteria, moulds, yeasts, &c." The



Council of the Institute is decidedly enterprising in thus annexing for the benefit of its constituents a new field of scientific practice, but we would point out that the examination is getting dangerously near those for diplomas in public health, which the General Medical Council is authorised to control under the Medical Acts. Further developments in this direction should be narrowly scrutinised by the medical authorities.

The Institute now consists of 863 Fellows, 123 associates, and 169 students. Only 12 Fellows and associates hold the certificate which the Local Government Board has been induced to regard as the primary qualification for public analysts, so that we have the curious anomaly that most of the chemists now holding appointments as public analysts lack this primary qualification.

## The Company View.

LAST week the *Nottingham Express* printed some appreciative notes on the good work done by the Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association, which do not appear to have pleased Mr. Jesse Boot, who has written to the *Express* stating that the Nottingham chemists have debarred assistants of Boots (Limited) from partaking of the advantages of the University College for pharmaceutical study. Mr. Boot proceeds to touch upon matters of wider interest. He says:—

Just in the same way as they have tried unfairly to injure competitors as regards local matters, they are also contemplating bringing influence to bear upon the Government to suppress competition in the chemists' and druggists' business. They have not the slightest prospect of succeeding, but it is worth while drawing attention to what they would like if they could get it, and most of all to the spirit in which they are making their attempt. Finding that they cannot compete with us on business lines, they are asking the Government to protect them, alleging the safety of the public as their excuse. The safety of the public is as much our care as theirs, and is properly secured by our employing qualified assistants, registered by the Pharmaceutical Society, at every branch. This, however, they carefully conceal; but as it is known to millions of our customers it makes no matter as far as customers are concerned. Some of our members of Parliament, however, are liable to be imposed upon by the specious arguments and deliberate misrepresentations of the private chemists.

Mr. Boot ought to know that he does not in these sentences state the case fairly. Although competition is one factor in the trouble which has produced the movement to get the principle of the Pharmacy Act restored, that principle itself—the qualification of the individual owner—was what induced the Pharmaceutical Society to fight the company case up to the House of Lords. The delay in getting parliamentary restitution does not obliterate the anomaly under which Mr. Boot—who has no legal personal right to sell a halfpennyworth of red precipitate—has, by combining with six other individuals equally outside the law's stipulations, set the law at naught, and is trafficking with "millions of customers" in articles which the law in 1867 declared it to be expedient for the safety of the public should only be dealt in by registered chemists and druggists. The immensity of the business which Mr. Boot has founded, and the fact that the Law Courts have said that such owners as Boots (Limited) were not contemplated by the framers of the Pharmacy Act, are excellent reasons for asking the Legislature to stop the growth of the anomaly.

### THEY MUST WORK.

There was sadness in the House of Burlington where had met together the Drug Conners, whose duty it is to discover the truth or falsehood, possibility or impossibility, of adulteration. To their sorrow the sage at the Field had declared that the great B.P. was not a legal standard, but the Heal-

man warned them not to tell the Caliph, for albeit the Caliph knew not what they said, he was wont to look wise, and turn his shoulder unto them. Yea, he had even told one who had presided over them that he must do his work himself, and not entrust it to a hireling, whereat the Drug Conners were wroth yet sore dismayed. And they cried amongst themselves, "How shall we trap the unwary, and make the nostrils of the Caliph to stink?" And one said, "Let us gather from our cousins the juice of *Ferula fetida*. Mayhap clay hath entered into it, and we shall find it out, and show it to the Caliph as we did the essence from the juniper-tree, and the oil from the eucalypt. Thus shall we punish our cousins and grieve the Caliph, who abhorreth bad smells." The Drug Conners chuckled deep, and departed with intent to foray.

### THE NICOTINE CASE.

We observe that several leading newspapers support the action of the Pharmaceutical Society in regard to the sale of a nicotine-preparation as a greenhouse-insecticide. The *Gardeners' Chronicle* has informed its readers in a careful manner of the necessity of the sale of poisons being restricted to persons of proper qualification, and the *Globe*, a London evening newspaper, also supports the law. Newspapers, as a rule, are apt to consider anything done for the protection of the public in this matter to be in the nature of trade-protection.

### OFFICIAL ASAFETIDA.

Mr. J. O. Umney promptly follows up Mr. Moor's communication on asafetida to the Society of Public Analysts (see *C. & D.*, December 9, page 953) with some instructive notes upon the quality of this drug as found in the London market. We hope that leading public analysts will consider these additional observations, as they throw a great deal more light upon the subject, and it is exceedingly desirable that there should be no action under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act on the basis of the British Pharmacopœia standard. We can confirm Mr. Umney's statement that there is little, if any, asafetida now in the market up to B.P. requirements; and this is not surprising. Comparatively little asafetida is used in medicine, most of it being employed as a flavouring agent in other industries. There is a very large demand for gum resin in the block which would not be satisfied by the offer of the exceedingly fine tears that the Pharmacopœia requires, and which are so difficult to get. It should be clearly understood that the addition of earthy matters to asafetida takes place in the country of collection, and there appears to be little possibility of the London importers controlling the production so as to provide a regular supply of a gum resin meeting the B.P. description. We hear that "some very fine stuff" is coming along from the Persian Gulf, but this is, we are informed, "fine pinky block." Stuff from that quarter always is "fine" before it arrives, but if we may judge from what is said this consignment will be typical of the best supplies of the season, and analysts certainly should know what it is like before they begin a campaign.

### A MATTER OF CERTIFICATE.

In referring last week to the Isle of Man Pharmacy Bill, we suggested that it exhibits signs of careless drafting. The *Isle of Man Daily Times* thereupon remarks:—

We waited upon the Attorney-General, who is in charge of the Bill, and he pointed out to us that this criticism is quite unmeaning. The certificates in question are those referred to in sections 11 and 12 of the Bill. They are obviously not "examination certificates," as supposed by our contemporary, but simply certificates, as expressly stated in the sections, "that the persons therein specified as registered are registered," &c. The object of this provision is, as explained to us by the Attorney-General, to provide evidence of registration in the case of a person placed on the register between the dates of issuing printed copies of the register. The extraordinary part of it is that section 13 of the English Act—viz., "The Pharmacy Act, 1868"—contains a pro-



vision substantially the same as section 11 of the Manx Bill, and the Irish Act, section 27, contains a provision similar to that in section 12 of the Manx Bill. Both sections 11 and 12 of the Manx Bill are evidently taken substantially from the English and Irish Acts respectively.

The point of our criticism really is that in the Isle of Man Bill the reference is (page 5, lines 41 to 44, page 6, line 1), "certificates . . . countersigned by the President and two members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain." What the Pharmacy Act, section 13, says is "the President and two members of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society." We presume that the latter is the intended provision.

#### MORE ABOUT THE BY-LAWS.

After our representative left the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council at Bloomsbury Square last week, the General Purposes Committee had some business to discuss, and arising from it Mr. Carteighe made the following statement, which we copy from the official report:—

Mr. Carteighe said the Council would remember that a month ago he suggested a minute dealing with the fees paid to examiners and kindred subjects. At that time he was under the impression that no alteration would be needed in the by-laws for some years, but on looking into the matter he found it would be necessary, as soon as the altered conditions with regard to the Preliminary examination came into force, to repeal some of the ancient by-laws, and this would therefore have to be done in the course of next year. This would be a convenient time for making any changes which were desirable, and, as it was a lengthy process, the by-laws having to be read three times by the Council and then submitted to a general meeting, it was well to begin in good time. There were certain by-laws to which their friends in the north took exception, which were made many years ago, and hardly suited the present conditions, and he personally should be very glad to look carefully into the matter and see if any improvement could be made. The object was not to get money out of candidates, but simply to keep things in order. He would therefore move that a sub-committee consisting of the President, Vice-President, Mr. Carteighe, and Mr. Hills be appointed to consider and report to the General Purposes Committee what alterations are necessary or desirable in the by-laws.

The proposition was agreed to unanimously.

The General Purposes Committee often has more business to transact privately than the Council has to do publicly, and, although Mr. Carteighe indicates that the alterations of the by-laws again to be effected are a mere trifle, we cannot overlook the fact that Mr. Carteighe's trifles have sometimes developed into far-reaching affairs. In this by-law matter it will be found that some important questions of principle will probably be involved, e.g., with reference to division of the Minor examination and non-attendance of candidates at examinations after they have given notice. It would be a good thing for the Society if the committee now appointed would make a thorough revision of the by-laws, especially in regard to certain details bearing upon administrative routine, which, if interpreted in a narrow spirit, only serve to make enemies to the Society.

#### COMPANIES' PROFITS.

In the course of the report of the directors of Parke's Drug Stores (Lim.) occurs the following paragraph:—

After allowing for the above the net balance for the fifteen months amounts to 4,027*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* out of which have been paid the dividends on the preference shares for the full fifteen months amounting to 1,830*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* which includes the quarterly dividend paid on October 20 last.

In the balance-sheet interim dividends amounting to 2,252*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* are deducted from the 4,027*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* referred to, making a difference of 421*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* which is not accounted for. A correspondent recently referred in our columns to companies' profits, and "Xrayser" drove home the moral of our correspondent's letter. We have another aspect of the question in Parke's report. We observe that this

company's shops are valued at 59,595*l.* for goodwill, stock, fixtures, &c., or almost 2,600*l.* per shop on an average, and the annual profit on the trading was 203*l.* per shop. After allowing 5 per cent. for the invested capital the net profit per shop was only 76*l.* We find that Lewis & Burrows' shops showed for the term last reported (*C. & D.*, November 25, page 879) an average profit of 275*l.* per shop before deducting managerial expenses, this being about the highest of the drug companies, or 188*l.* net per shop.

Boots' (Lim.) show a net profit of 130*l.* per annum on each of their shops (which we reckon as 140). Parke's profit on the same basis is 120*l.* per annum. As Boots' (Lim.) pay the highest dividend, and their profit per shop is not the highest, it is obvious that success in this case comes from multiplicity of establishments.

#### THE URBANE CHEMIST.

The book-reviewer for the *Star* gives a very appreciative notice of "The Book of Shops," which, he says, is a very charming medley of rhymes and pictures. The rhymes are by Mr. E. V. Lucas, and the pictures by Mr. F. D. Bedford. It is fashioned after the old children's books, and while Mr. Lucas rhymes about a shop or trade on one page Mr. Bedford depicts it in full blast on the other. Specially good are the lines about the barber's "fierce shampoo," and "the razor's deadly sheen, The perfume of the Brilliantine," and about the chemist:—

Though but a halfpenny you spend,  
He treats you like his dearest friend;  
He stands beside his tiny light,  
And hurries not a bit,  
And folds the paper smooth and white,  
And sealing-waxes it,  
And hands it to you with the air  
Of one who serves a millionaire.

It is good to find the politeness and urbanity which are characteristic of the craft recognised even in children's stories.

#### PHYSICIANS' PROPRIETARIES.

The art of prescription-writing is, says the *British Medical Journal*, in danger of being lost on account of the increasing tendency of medical men to prescribe active drugs in proprietary forms. The drug-habit is established in patients by the fascinating forms and the ease with which the drugs can be obtained. No prescription is needed, and friends and acquaintances far and wide are recommended to try the same drug, with consequences which must sometimes be disastrous. The custom is prejudicial both to physician and patient, and we observe that the pharmacist is also recognised as a sufferer, for our contemporary explains the position as follows:—

We, by Act of Parliament, insist on the pharmacist passing certain stringent examinations, and yet when he has passed his ordeal and is duly qualified we send him prescriptions for packets of drugs which require no skill in compounding, and could be, and are, distributed by the local grocer. His technical knowledge is of no avail, and he is quickly reduced to the level of the agent of wholesale manufacturers. That the physician should cease to control the treatment of his patients and should leave it in the hands of others is a very serious consideration. Each case requires individual care and attention, and the attempt to prescribe for people simply by the name of the complaint from which they are supposed to be suffering must be prejudicial to the individual. Medicine is both a science and an art, and the custom of reducing patients to a uniform level and of regarding them simply as units of a group is not to be commended.

SPRATT'S PATENT (LIMITED), 24 and 25 Fenchurch Street, E.C., have sent us a copy of the calendar for 1900 which they are issuing. A month of the calendar is displayed at a time, and each leaf is adorned with a picture of a celebrated prize dog. At the back of each portrait there is given valuable technical information as to the breed depicted.



## Winter Session.

*Advance notices of the meetings to be held are inserted under "Coming Events." Secretaries are requested to send such notices not later than Wednesdays of the weeks before the meetings are to be held.*

### The Roentgen Society.

A MEETING of this Society was held on December 7, at 20 Hanover Square, W., Mr. Wilson Noble in the chair.

Mr. J. MOORE, F.R.O.S., showed with the fluorescent screen a young man with a bullet in his brain. The bullet had been in the man's head since July, and by measurement has been ascertained to lie between the two hemispheres of the brain. The patient just after the accident had high temperature and convulsions, but does not now appear to experience any discomfort.

Mr. MACKENZIE DAVIDSON then made some observations on

#### PRACTICAL X-RAY WORK

founded on the general methods he himself uses. He began by emphasising the difficulties of interpreting skiagrams the method of measuring which some surgeons use being disastrous in many ways. Mr. Mackenzie Davidson has overcome this by his method of localising, which needs two photographs taken from points of view 6 cm. apart. The pictures thus taken are also adapted for viewing in a Wheatstone's stereoscope, the view in relief giving a capital idea of the situation of the foreign body. The operating-couch which the speaker uses has a central portion, over which parchment is stretched as on a drumhead, and a drawer or compartment beneath in which the sensitive plate is inserted. Across the surface of the parchment there are stretched two pieces of piano-wire, which, by the shadow they make on the plate, enable the two skiagrams to be exactly registered. The focus-tube is suspended from a scaled cross-bar along which the tube is moved for the two pictures. The patient does not move between the two exposures, but is comfortably fixed on the couch. From the two negatives obtained the exact situation of the foreign body is found by means of the localiser, or two prints from the negatives may be mounted and viewed in the stereoscope. To show the exactitude with which the localiser works, Mr. Mackenzie Davidson handed round some skiagrams of an eye containing fragments of metal of the size of pin-points which had been successfully localised and removed; and, he added, in these cases either the foreign body or the eye must come out, else sympathetic trouble supervenes.

The speaker exhibited the special form of apparatus he uses for his eye-skiagrams. The patient's head is fastened in place and his gaze directed to a certain spot. The scintillating centre of the cathode is focussed by means of a rifle-sight, and, everything being ready, the two pictures are taken, one 3 cm. to the left and the other 3 cm. to the right of the central position.

It is difficult, he said, to buy *x*-ray tubes which are in focus, as when the cathode is made of platinum it melts at once, but the use of osmium enables correctly focussed tubes to be made. Osmium, however, is now practically unobtainable.

Mr. Mackenzie Davidson has abandoned the use of the Ruhmkorff coil in *x*-ray work, using in its place the Wimshurst influence-machine, and finds that with it tubes will work for hours without deterioration or alteration of the vacuum.

The speaker concluded with some interesting remarks on the secondary or vagrant *x* rays which are given off from other parts of the tube and play an important part in the fogging of plates. These secondary rays he now keeps in by a hood made of a mixture of equal parts of red-lead and plaster of Paris moulded on the tube. The skiagrams obtained when the hood is used are much clearer than those taken without shielding. Promise was made of a demonstration with an apparatus in which two tubes are lighted alternately at such short intervals that persistence of vision gives a stereoscopic view of an object. Surgeons will with this new apparatus be able to operate under the *x* rays without having to take skiagrams or using the localising-apparatus.

MR. WIMSHURST, Captain ABNEY, and others complimented the author.

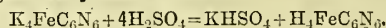
## Chemical Society.

THE audience gathered slowly at Burlington House on December 7, it being quite 8.15 P.M. before Dr. Thorpe opened the proceedings by intimating that the senior Secretary (Professor Dunstan) was unavoidably absent, as he had to take Sir F. Abel's place at an Imperial Institute meeting. The secretarial work fell upon Dr. Scott, and it included a ballot in which all the candidates were elected, amongst them Mr. F. R. Duddridge, Ph.C., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Mr. J. A. Dewhurst, Ph.C., chemist to Messrs. Curling, Wyman & Co. The papers were a trifle heavy to begin with, and the first three do not call for report in this journal. Mr. FENTON, F.R.S., communicated the first two—(1) on the oxidation of certain organic acids in presence of iron, and (2) on oxalacetic acid. Both were a continuation of his clever research on the influence of hydrogen peroxide on organic bodies when a trace of ferrous sulphate is present. Dr. A. W. CROSSLEY followed with a second part of his research on the determination of the constitution of fatty acids, which was so special that even Dr. Lewkowsitch—most ready of commentators and critics—was content to let it pass without remark.

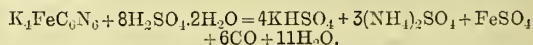
Two papers communicated by Mr. R. H. ADIE, M.A., B.Sc., proved to be of pharmaceutical interest. The first dealt with the reactions between

#### SULPHURIC ACID AND POTASSIUM FERROCYANIDE.

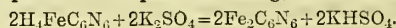
Strong sulphuric acid dissolves the dry ferrocyanide without apparent change, but hydro-ferrocyanic acid,  $\text{H}_4\text{FeC}_6\text{N}_6$ , is really formed thus:—



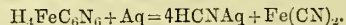
On adding water CO is given off, the maximum arising when the proportions of acid and water are as  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  to  $2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , when the whole of the cyanogen comes away as CO. The reaction is:—



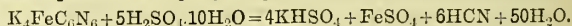
Some hydrolysis, in Mr. Adie's opinion, takes place in the course of the action, and he suggested that the acid and water may in that case be best represented as  $\text{S}(\text{OH})_6$ —an ingenious hazard which no one either gainsaid or supported. The next possible interaction is that in which Everett's salt is formed, and hydrocyanic acid evolved, the salt appearing to be formed by the action of  $\text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$  on  $\text{H}_4\text{FeC}_6\text{N}_6$ . Two equations represent this change, the acid used being one molecule to four molecules of water. Hydro-ferrocyanic acid and potassium sulphate resulting, these react thus:—



Simultaneously we have also this reaction:—



The reaction, in which all the cyanogen comes off as HCN, takes place with  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , viz:—



This reaction is assisted by air, which is the reason why manufacturers put some pieces of brick into their prussic-acid stills. It is the air that produces the Nicholson's blue which is formed to a small extent during the reaction.

There was a good deal of speaking after the paper, Mr. CHAPMAN, Mr. GROVES, Professor RAMSAY, and Dr. THORPE joining in it. The last-named recalled the investigations of the late Professor Dittmar on sulphuric acid, which resulted in showing that, no matter how much sulphuric acid is evaporated, there always remains one molecule of water associated with it, because part of the acid splits up into  $\text{SO}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Mr. ADIE, having replied to various questions, read another paper on

#### SULPHATES OF BISMUTH.

Like the preceding one, this arose from the author's work in connection with the pharmaceutical chemistry classes at the Cambridge University, and difficulty in reconciling laboratory-work with British Pharmacopœia and text-book statements. Three sulphates are traditional—*normal*,  $\text{Bi}(\text{SO}_4)_3$ , *acid*,  $\text{BiH}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and *basic*,  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{O}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Some say there is a fourth, which is a mixture. The author studied the conditions in which each of the three is



produced. He found that  $H_2SO_4$ , with  $6H_2O$  to  $12H_2O$  always gave crystals whose analysis gave the formula  $5Bi_2O_3 \cdot 11SO_3 \cdot 17H_2O$ . He could not get  $Bi_2O_3 \cdot 2SO_3 \cdot 2H_2O$ , no matter how he tried. An acid mixture of  $H_2SO_4$  and  $3H_2O$  to  $5H_2O$  gave the acid sulphate as above. It decomposes at  $170^\circ C$ , giving the normal sulphate. The normal sulphate is produced under the known conditions, but its formula is  $BiH(SO_4)_2 \cdot H_2O$ . Inquiring into the possible reasons for these novel results, Mr. Adie found that if bismuth is dissolved in strong sulphuric acid there separates first a crop of crystals of quite different composition (57 per cent.  $Bi_2O_3$ ) from a second crop which separates below  $170^\circ C$ , and contains 44 per cent. of  $Bi_2O_3$ . He also found that time has an important influence; but into that and other details we need not enter, as they can only be clearly understood by examining the experimental results, and these will duly appear in the journal of the Society.

The only comment on this paper came from Mr. MACLEWAN, who remarked that makers of bismuth salts had of recent years found it difficult to always get the same results with old processes. Could this, he asked, be due to difference in the metal bismuth, such a difference as Crookes's metal elements theory might explain? But that theory appears not to be held in high esteem at Burlington House, and Mr. ADIE replied that the bismuth-difficulty was all a question of temperature.

The PRESIDENT then read the titles of the rest of the papers, of which there was quite a long list.

### Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society.

A MEETING was held at the Liverpool School of Pharmacy on December 7, Mr. Prosper H. Marsden (President) in the chair. Messrs. J. A. Mercer and J. Hodgson were elected members.

Mr. T. S. WOKES, Ph.Ch., read some

#### PHARMACEUTICAL NOTES.

These were concerning certain prescriptions, the dispensing of which had given rise to peculiar reactions and several difficulties.

No. 1.—Unpreventable liberation of iodine took place in the following through the agency of the ferric salt:—

Potass. iodid...	...	...	...	3iiss.
Liq. ferri perchlor.	...	...	...	3ij.
Liq. arsenici hydroch.	...	...	...	3j.
Spt. chlorof.	...	...	...	3ij.
Aquæ ad	...	...	...	3vj.

M. Ft. mist.

The doctor when spoken to altered the prescription.

No. 2.—Mucilage had to be employed to suspend the tincture of heroin, which is in rather unusual amount:—

Tr. benzoini co.	...	...	...	m 320
Oxymellis scillæ	...	...	...	3j.
Vini ipecac.	...	...	...	m 80
Syrupi tolut.	...	...	...	m 80
Aquæ ad	...	...	...	3viij.

M. Ft. mist.

No. 3.—The peculiarity of this was the large dose of bromide and tincture of hyoscyamus. This, however, was explained by the direction—one dose daily:—

Potass. bromidi	...	...	...	3j.
Tr. belladonnæ	...	...	...	m 80
Tr. hyoscyami	...	...	...	3j.
Aquæ camphoræ ad..	...	...	...	3viij.

M. Ft. mist.

Sd. 3j. horâ somni.

No. 4.—This gargle did not require mucilage to suspend the tincture of myrrh, as the glycerin was sufficient:—

Potassæ chloratis	...	...	...	3j.
Tr. catechu	...	...	...	3iv.
Tr. myrrhæ	...	...	...	3iij.
Glycerini	...	...	...	3j.
Aquæ ad	...	...	...	3vj.

M. Ft. gargarisma.

No. 5.—The meaning of the writer of this prescription was rather difficult to get at:—

Suppos. acid. borici...	...	...	aa. gr. xv.
Mitte vj. ut dictu,			

An ordinary 15 gr. suppository, containing 2 gr. to 3 gr. of boric acid, seemed at first sight to be intended, but communication with the doctor revealed the fact that he really wanted a pessary with 15 gr. of boric acid in a 60-gr. mass, six to be sent.

No. 6.—A lotion for the scalp, with elaborate Latin directions, gave no difficulty. An emulsion was first made, and, when strained, it was mixed with the other ingredients:—

Amygd. amar.	...	...	...	m x.
Aquæ rosmarini	...	...	...	3vj.

Contunde et tere simul dein, cola, et adde—

Hydr. perchlor.	...	...	...	gr. xvj.
Spt. vini rect.	...	...	...	3ij.

Ft. lotio.

No. 7.—The active ingredient in this is somewhat unusual—at any rate in pessary form:—

Tr. benzoini co.	...	...	...	m x.
Olei theobromæ ad	...	...	...	gr. 60

Ft. pessus.

Made by heat this was a failure, but by cold compression it was a very satisfactory mass.

No. 8.—Effervescence took place in this, which was not due to acidity of the mucilage, which was fresh. Perhaps the codeine had been acted on by the bicarbonate:—

Sodii bicarbonatis	...	...	...	gr. 80
Tr. cottonis (!)	...	...	...	m 80
Tr. chlorof. co.	...	...	...	3iv.
Codeinæ	...	...	...	gr. j.
Mucilaginis	...	...	...	3j.
Aquæ cinnamomi ad	...	...	...	3viij.

M. Ft. mist.

Specimens of suppositories made by compression were shown, and "luted suppositories" also, used in surgical operations of the rectum. In these a tuft of lint about 3 inches long is dipped at the tip into melted cocoa butter until of the right size, and then moulded by rolling on a slab with a palette knife.

The PRESIDENT spoke of the value of such papers, and advised the students to cultivate their powers of observation and record their dispensing-experiences for the benefit of their comrades. Such incompatibilities as the prescription No. 1 presented were far from uncommon in hospital dispensers' experience, and were the result of the smattering of pharmacy obtained by medical students nowadays in their three months' course of practice and lectures. He had had a similar mixture to No. 1 ordered repeatedly, and he had dispensed it under protest. Another one had salicylate of soda and hydrochromic acid together, another ferrous sulphate and liquor Fowle's, and yet another actually contained potassium iodide, solution of corrosive sublimate, solution of strychnine, and solution of peroxide of hydrogen.

Mr. H. WYATT, jun., remarked that No. 2 went well with the yolk of an egg, and he had often turned it out in that way, with a note on the prescription. Gargles with tincture of myrrh, such as No. 4, did not require mucilage if an amount of gnm myrrh equal to that contained by the tincture were emulsified with water, and the equivalent of spirit, together with any other tincture ordered, added last of all. He was of opinion that the effervescence in No. 8 could not be due to action of the codeine on the bicarbonate, but rather to the chloroform in the tincture displacing the air from the solution of bicarbonate. This was noticeable in making chloroform-water with tap-water or distilled water which had been exposed to the air. On shaking the chloroform saturated the water and drove out the contained air with considerable force.

Mr. R. C. COWLEY pointed out that codeine was decidedly basic, and could, therefore, scarcely displace  $CO_2$  from a bicarbonate.

A lecture on

#### "ARMS AND AMMUNITION"

was then given by Mr. H. WYATT, jun., during which the history of small-arms was dwelt upon, the defects inherent in guns propelling spherical bullets pointed out, the advantages of rifling discussed, the advent of breech-loading weapons fully explained, and the various Service rifles used at various times in the English Service described. The important movement towards the reduction of calibre and



the adoption of powders of high explosive power and of a smokeless character were fully entered into, and the manufacture of cordite and the causes of the great force exerted by this powder explained. The concluding part of the lecture was devoted to the consideration of continental military rifles in general—with their good and bad points—the Lee-Metford magazine-rifle being taken as a type of what a perfect arm should be.

### Newcastle and District Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held on December 6 at the Hotel Metropole, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. C. Ridley (President) in the chair. Mr. W. BUCKLEY, North Shields, read a paper on

#### THE EXTENSION OF THE POISONS SCHEDULE.

There has been, he said, of late years a growing conviction in the minds of the public, as in those of pharmacists, that an extension of part 2 of the schedule was desirable in the interests of the public safety. Scarcely a week passes without some coroner or jury making strong recommendations to this effect, and since the recommendations by the Pharmaceutical Society for the keeping and selling of poisons have become law, the present is an opportune time for approaching the Privy Council with respect to certain additions to the existing list. Mr. Buckley described the various legislative enactments in the poison question down to the present time. He showed how the Government appeared to view the question of still further increasing the list of poisons as savouring too much of a monopoly for the registered chemist, but that whilst chemists by their training and qualification were competent to distribute these articles it was not a matter of £ s. d. for them, as many instances occur daily where chemists refuse to sell poisons to unsuitable persons. Even if all poisonous substances were scheduled chemists would gain but little by it, for there is no branch of business which demands so much self-sacrifice as the sale of poisons, that branch of the business being more of a necessary evil than a source of profit. Mr. Buckley concluded by hoping that the Pharmaceutical Council would draft a list of substances which would meet with the approval of the Privy Council.

A good discussion followed, and ultimately the following resolution was carried:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable, in the interests of public safety, that carbolic acid, strong mineral acid, butter of antimony, acetate of lead, sulphates of copper and zinc, oxalates, and strong solution of ammonia be added to part 2 of the poisons schedule.

### Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association.

#### "SEWER-AIR"

was the subject of an instructive and entertaining lecture by Dr. LLOYD JONES to this Association on Friday evening. Sewer-air has been an all-too-obtrusive and plentiful part of the Cambridge atmosphere during recent years, and the Secretaries of the Association rather naïvely issued invitations to every member of the Corporation to attend the lecture. The venerable President of the Association (Mr. Alderman Deck) took the chair. Sanitary science, said Dr. Lloyd Jones, is still quite in its infancy, and we are the inheritors of houses from our forefathers which medical officers cannot but regard with pain. Sewer-air was found in well-ventilated, well-constructed, well-flushed sewers, and in composition it differed little from the outside air—a little more carbonic acid, a little less oxygen, and a little more organic matter, with, strange to say, fewer micro-organisms. It was poorer in micro-organisms than the air of a drawing-room, or of even an ordinary heated room, but it was not, therefore, harmless. The danger from the inorganic constituents of sewer-air was practically nil: it was the organic matter derived from putrefying animal and vegetable substances that was deleterious, causing often disease and death. A distinction was to be drawn between the microbes of sewer-air and the microbes of sewage itself. When bubbles of gas burst from a liquid microbes were being disseminated from putrefying animal and vegetable

matter. Microbes from the sewage itself might also become disseminated by splashing and by currents, and when a sewer was lined by decomposing deposits of sewage currents of air might blow microbes off into the sewer-air. The lecturer then went on to give instances which had come under his notice of diseases that had been communicated by sewer-air, and drew attention to the fact that all sewer-air is not offensive, and that offensiveness is not a criterion of harmfulness. The latter part of the lecture was most convincing, for, with the assistance of the borough medical officer, Dr. Jones had been able to collect a large number of drawings of houses of both the upper and lower classes where faulty drainage and sewer-communicating bath and w.c. pipes had been the cause of either disease or death in Cambridge. The moral he drew was that if people wanted to be well, they should look after their drains themselves, and not trust to the local authority.

On the motion of Mr. A. S. CAMPKIN, J.P., seconded by Mr. R. STURTON, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Jones for his lecture.

### Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association.

THIS Association met at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on December 6, Mr. David McLaren (President) in the chair. Messrs. Charles Stewart and James B. M. McLaren, Kirkcaldy, W. J. McNab, Gorebridge, and D. W. Nicholson, Leith, were elected members. The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. C. F. Henry) stated that he had received replies in acknowledgment of the resolutions passed by the Association in June last from Lord Salisbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Devonshire, Mr. A. J. Balfour, and the Lord Advocate. With regard to the Federation of Associations' proposals anent

#### COMPANY-PHARMACY,

the committee had met, and unanimously agreed to reply that the Association saw no reason to depart from the resolutions adopted in June and published in the journals at the time. The action of the committee was confirmed. The CHAIRMAN said he had intended to give

#### AN ADDRESS,

but, owing to illness, he had found it impossible to carry out his intention. He had thought of speaking about pharmacy in Scotland during the last fifty years. In 1849 there were forty-nine open drug-shops in Edinburgh, and in 1860 they had increased to fifty-three. He referred to the scarcity of apprentices. He had noticed that an editor recently compared the chemist and druggist with the publican and the grocer. He did not assume that that remark was intended to be derogatory to the trade at large, but that the editor was thinking of the profitable character of these trades; and he hoped pharmacy would be more profitable in the future than it had been in the past. As to the question of unqualified men carrying on the business, he thought the less said about it the better. While they were entitled to object to such persons using their titles, to say much about it would only advertise them.

Mr. LUNAN moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman. As to company-pharmacy, he remarked the only thing they could contend for was the protection of the qualification. They had nothing to do with the capital by which the business was carried on. They should go forward unitedly to protect the title. On other matters chemists generally did not seem to have made up their minds.

Mr. BOA seconded the motion, and agreed with Mr. Lunan that it was good policy to say as little as possible about the stores, but they should seek to protect the qualification and titles.

Mr. NESBIT supported the observations made by Messrs. Lunan and Boa, and said they should not allow a company or store to assume the title of chemist and druggist.

Mr. GLASS said he did not think in the present connection they could successfully demand more than the restriction of titles to persons holding them by examination. He could not agree with the statement that the qualification of the employé became in any sense the qualification of the employer. They might as well say the qualification of a certificated teacher conferred a qualification on a school



board, or that the qualification of a physician conferred qualification on those corporate bodies who employed doctors. They should seek to protect titles, and steer clear of the intricacies which lay beyond that.

Mr. HENRY said he had been astonished at some of the resolutions even yet being passed by associations, showing that a great deal had to be thought out. No doubt those who differed were equally sincere, but he thought tact and prudence suggested that they should agree as to the protection of titles in the meantime, and allow the discussion on other matters to continue. It was said that if they shook a barrel of apples the good ones would come to the top, and that would doubtless happen to the suggestions that were now abroad.

The CHAIRMAN acknowledged the vote of thanks. It was agreed to hold a dinner at the end of January, and the President, Vice-President, and Secretary were appointed a committee to carry out the arrangements. This was all the business.

### Dewsbury and District Chemists' and Druggists' Association.

A MEETING was held on December 11 in the Dewsbury Town Hall, and was well attended. Mr. Foster presided. The Federation circular was read, as well as a letter from the Bradford Association submitting the resolution which it had adopted in regard to the circular—viz., to wait until the Pharmaceutical Council had come to some resolution regarding Mr. Newsholme's scheme. Some conversation ensued, but no action was taken, the Association having been the first body of chemists to pass a resolution indicating their policy and opinion on the Companies Bill. In the course of the conversation it was mentioned that the meeting had been deferred a week in the expectation that the policy of the Pharmaceutical Society would be announced at the meeting of the Council last week, and some astonishment was expressed that nothing had been done and that the Council should still be playing the dark-horse.

A communication was received from Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, intimating the preliminary issue for flotation purposes of 500 shares in the Chemists' Defence Association (Limited), and several members indicated their intention to subscribe.

The question of the

#### CAMWAL-RECONSTRUCTION

scheme was introduced by Mr. WALKER, and an informal discussion took place. Circulars had been received by shareholders. In the course of the discussion it was stated that the Secretary of Camwal had been asked if anyone who was not a chemist but who took up shares would be supplied, and he replied that the new company would be bound to supply shareholders. It was felt that this would create a free trade, and the expression was made that this seemed likely to be another case where chemists had built up a trade—as they did with patent medicines—and then had it snatched out of their hands. It was decided to put the subject on the agenda for the next meeting. [See page 1000. ED.]

## Festivities.

#### O.A.A. CINDERELLA.

The first of the fifth series of Cinderella dances took place in the Dorset Hall, Portman Rooms, W., on December 7. There were between sixty and seventy present, and everything went off smoothly. Mr. C. W. Martin and Mr. A. H. Solomon were the M.C's. January 4 is fixed as the date of the next dance.

#### MIDLAND SMOKER.

The Midland Pharmaceutical Society held a smoking-concert at the Great Western Hotel on December 7, under the presidency of Mr. G. E. Perry. One of the hits of the evening was the Chairman's song, in which he made allusions to a variety of trade matters. A capital programme was provided, mostly by professionals.

#### ATHLETIC AMUSEMENT.

The eighth annual smoking-concert of the Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club was held on Monday evening, December 11, when Dr. George Coull presided over a large and representative attendance. The medical profession was well represented, as well as kindred associations. A varied programme was submitted, and, among others, the following took part:—Messrs. G. H. C. Rowland, Graham Courtney, D. Simpson, G. Jamieson, J. Bartleman, and K. Brewster. A cinematograph-exhibition was much enjoyed. The Chairman proposed "The Prosperity of the Club," to which Mr. Rutherford Hill replied with his usual oratorical ability.

#### HALIFAX HAPPY.

The dinner of the Halifax and District Chemists' Association was held on December 7 at the Old Cock Hotel, Halifax, Mr. H. C. Brierley (the President of the Association) in the chair. There was a large attendance, and after the usual toasts had been honoured, Mr. W. C. Hebden, J.P., submitted "The Town and Trade of Halifax." He called to mind the fact that it was thirty-one years since the Association had been formed, and of those then connected with it there were only two members present that evening—namely, Mr. J. B. Brierley and himself. During its career the Association had done good work, and had proved a useful and powerful organisation. Mr. G. C. Cobbe responded, and the toast of "The Association" was given by Mr. S. N. Pickard (Bradford), who reminded his hearers that they might, in the near future, have to fight for their just rights, and it was necessary that they be united. Mr. Brierley replied; and "Visiting Friends," submitted by Mr. Comyns, was replied to by Mr. Cussons, of Dewsbury, and Mr. Silson, of Bradford. "The Pharmaceutical Society" and "The Past Officers" were afterwards toasted. The proceedings were interspersed with songs and recitations by members of the company. At the close, Mr. Gibson Dixon sang "Soldiers of the Queen," and the company showed appreciation by collecting 24s. for the local war fund.

#### EDINBURGH CHEMISTS', ASSISTANTS', AND APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION.

THE Association held a social evening at the Pharmaceutical Society's House, 36 York Place Edinburgh, on December 6. The President (Mr. Fraser McDiarmid), and the committee received the company. There were a number of interesting exhibits. Mr. J. Hume Patterson, of the Royal College of Physicians' research-laboratory, exhibited a series of pathogenic bacteria, including both microscopic and naked-eye specimens, and specimens of agar-agar, potato, and bread paste cultures of the tubercle, typhoid, cholera, tetanus, glanders, diphtheria, and anthrax bacilli, *Bacillus prodigiosus*, *B. fluorescens*, *B. mycoides*, *B. coli communis*, *Sarcina aurantia*, *S. lutea*, *Staphylococcus albus*, *S. aureus*, and *S. atreus*; and microscopic slides of tetanus bacillus showing typical drumstick forms, cholera bacillus showing spiral and comma forms, malaria parasite *in situ* in the blood-corpuscle of a pigeon, tubercle bacillus in sputum of consumptive patient, anthrax bacillus in blood of rabbit, typhoid bacillus showing flagella, and live typhoid bacillus showing mobility.

Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co. sent a collection of dried glandular extracts and preparations. On one table was laid out a series of early Herbals and Pharmacopœias from the Society's library; on another several microscopic objects, including living specimens of *Volvox globator*, *Hydra fusca*, *Amœba*, and *Tyroglyphus siro* (cheese-mite), a frog's foot showing the circulation of the blood and, starch grains *in situ* under polarised light, &c. There was also a collection of apparatus lent by Mr. William Hume, which included a model gas-engine and Marconi's apparatus for wireless telegraphy.

#### GLASGOW SCHOLARS SUP

The annual supper of the Glasgow School of Pharmacy took place in the North British Station Hotel, Glasgow, on December 8, Mr. J. Lethian (principal) in the chair. The guests included Messrs. Peter Boa and J. Rutherford Hill, Edinburgh, and Messrs. W. L. Currie, J. Robb, and W. Tait, Glasgow.

The loyal and patriotic toasts having been duly honoured, Mr. J. P. Gilmour proposed "The School and Principal."



He said there was a striking contrast between the earlier schools and those of to-day in point of scope and equipment. In the Glasgow School of Pharmacy they had a capital example of a teaching mechanism which not only justified its existence by the pass-list, but by the severer test of the subsequent success in life of its graduates. As a teacher Mr. Lothian possessed most of the theoretical qualifications for his work. He had capacity, indefatigable industry, and sympathetic imagination. Mr. Lothian not only commanded their respect on the intellectual side, he claimed their regard on moral grounds, and they felt that in him they had a friend and a brother.

Mr. Lothian, replying, said his one ambition had been to make his school thoroughly efficient and useful, and claimed that he had worked out its development on independent and reproductive lines. He paid tribute to his demonstrators, Messrs. Cockburn, Rodwell, and Davie, than whom no better men could be found.

The Kinninmount gold medal was then presented to Mr. H. Rodwell by Mr. W. L. Currie, who congratulated Mr. Lothian on the fact that the prize had been carried off by students of the school for three years in succession.

Mr. M. Meldrum proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society," and deprecated the idea that the Society was merely a fee-collecting and examining machine. With all its defects, it had done good work in the interests of pharmacy. It was high time, however, that a change was made in the system of examination to compensate for the increased stringency of the standard.

Mr. Peter Boa, who replied, said a previous speaker had avowed embarrassment because of the popularity of his toast. He was embarrassed for the opposite reason. And yet there was much to be said for the Pharmaceutical Society, and the remedy lay in themselves. He had no positive knowledge, but he might say that it was in the air that the inauguration of the ten-guinea fee might be followed by a division of the Minor and the adoption of the principle of refusing a candidate only in those subjects in which he is deficient. There was some soreness about the doubling of the qualifying-fee, but the Society had been driven to that measure in self-protection, because so few of those who qualified enrolled themselves as members.

At this stage Mr. J. P. Taylor, on behalf of the past and present students of the school, presented Mr. Lothian with a handsome American roll-top writing-desk and revolving chair and inkstand, as an expression of admiration and good will.

Mr. Lothian having briefly and feelingly thanked the donors, Mr. J. Rutherford Hill proposed "The Students" in a warlike speech, in which he deprecated pessimism as to the future of pharmacy, reminding them that they themselves were soldiers of their country with battles to fight. In the Southan campaign it was only the men who proved themselves staunch and fit at Athara who were allowed to go forward to Omdurman. The Minor was their Athara, and the field of business life their Omdurman. Other toasts followed, and a capital entertainment of songs and readings was sustained during the evening by Messrs. Macleod, J. P. Taylor, Taylor, W. L. Currie, J. Lothian, Hanna, and Gilmour, with Mr. Kennedy as pianist. "Auld Lang Syne" closed an enjoyable evening.

#### BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The members of this Association dined at the Granville Hotel, Bournemouth, on December 8, Mr. J. A. Toone (the president) in the chair.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," deprecated attacks being made on the Council, which he considered had done excellent work. If they had anybody to complain of it was rather the House of Lords, who in 1881 deliberately knocked the bottom out of the Pharmacy Act by the decision with reference to company-trading. That decision left the door open for any person to take unto himself six other persons more wicked than himself—or at any rate not qualified—and call himself a chemist. He might not know the difference between strychnine and sulphate of magnesia. (Laughter.) Under such circumstances the position of the trained individual pharmacist was becoming intolerable.

Mr. S. R. Atkins, who responded, appealed for fuller confidence in the Council. He admitted that it was divided in opinion on the burning subject of company-trading, and though anxiously deliberating had come to no consensus of opinion so far. The decision of the House of Lords was an unhappy one, but the time had come for the Society to reassert the principles of the Pharmacy Acts as to individual qualification. Some companies could easily be brought into line with the law as they desired it. His opinion was that their directors should be man for man qualified, and that their capital should be kept strictly within that qualification. Companies that could not do that he would like to see abolished. He would not stir from that first standpoint unless driven by stress of circumstances or of legal decisions. He would go to the Government Department in control, and frankly and fearlessly ask for legislation in favour of the individual qualification. If he were told that vested interests had grown too enormously, and that such contentious matter could not be launched in Parliament without fear of defeat, he would then ask the Council for fresh powers, and if they were unwilling or divided he would advocate a plebiscite of the community on the point. Failing the first stand, he would advocate a qualified directorate, but he looked on the spread of the co-operative, syndicate, and company principles in a calling like theirs with apprehension for the future of the great middle class of individual employers. If these were destroyed, or became employes and servants of companies, it would be a disaster to the nation.

Mr. W. Jones moved—

That this meeting of the Bournemouth and District Pharmaceutical Association is unanimously of opinion that the statutory titles of the Pharmacy Act should be available only for those who have qualified under the Act, and that it shall be unlawful for a company to take, use, or accept the title of pharmaceutical chemist or of chemist and druggist, or any other title indicating registration under the Pharmacy Act; and in all other respects a company should be subject to the provisions of those Acts in the same manner as individuals.

It was due to the pharmacist, he said, that his training and restrictions should command privileges, and it was due to the public that he should be highly efficient, whereas the substitution of managers for individual ownership would have a backward effect on pharmacy itself.

Mr. J. H. Morris, in seconding the resolution, described the average pharmacist as "an apathetic beggar." It would be, he said, a glorious day when companies were abolished. He thought qualified management was dangerous, and would too often prove a mere cover for the employment of capital, at the ultimate cost of the individual trader.

Mr. G. E. Bridge defended his position as "a company." He considered a joint-stock company an ideal condition for partnership. He had a mixed business, and it was unnecessary that a director managing the surgical and orthopedic department should be a qualified chemist. Still, he was opposed to the exploiting of the trade for capitalists, and moved an amendment to the effect that the matter might be met by having a qualified director, who had a substantial interest in the company.

This was lost, and the resolution carried by a large majority.

THE SACCHARIN DECISION printed on page 995 is followed by a special announcement in our advertisement pages by the Saccharin Corporation (Limited), the winners of the action. Another in the Coloured Supplement is by the Anglo-Continental Chemical Works (Limited) whose case is not the one decided nor connected with it.

CARBOLIC ACID IN A VINEGAR-BOTTLE.—An inquest was held at Southwark on December 9 on the body of a blind woman, who had poisoned herself by drinking carbolie acid in mistake for lemonade. It transpired that the lemonade and carbolie acid (which had been obtained from an oilshop) were kept together on a shelf in vinegar-bottles, and a juror was of opinion that this case was one of the strongest arguments that could be put forward for selling carbolie acid and all other poisons in distinguishable bottles. The Coroner concurred in these remarks, adding that the occurrence also showed the danger of allowing the sale of poisons at oil-shops, as well as the danger of its being sold in any kind of bottle.



## Legal Reports.

### High Court Cases.

#### THE SACCHARIN PATENT.

IN the Chancery Division on December 9, Mr. Justice North gave judgment in the case of the Saccharin Corporation (Limited) v. the Chemical and Drugs Company (Limited). Plaintiff in the action sought to restrain by injunction an alleged infringement by the defendants of patent No. 25,273, relating to the manufacture of saccharin. The defendants denied the validity of the patent on the ground that the invention was not proper subject-matter.

His Lordship said this action in its inception promised to be a very heavy one, as the plaintiffs claimed an injunction to restrain the infringement of eighteen patents, subsequently reduced to twelve, relating to the manufacture of toluene sulphochlorides, part of the process for producing saccharin. The defendants had denied infringement, and disputed the validity of the whole of the twelve patents. They said that the alleged inventor was not the first in the field, that there was a want of novelty, and that the invention was not the proper subject-matter for a patent. The area covered by the action was, however, reduced by an arrangement made between the parties, and by virtue of which only one patent, No. 25,273 of 1894, had been discussed before him. Even as to that all the grounds of defence were abandoned except one. The defendants had made a written admission for the purposes of this action that they had imported into this country saccharin made by a Dresden firm in accordance with the plaintiffs' patent. They, however, said that the invention did not disclose sufficient ingenuity or merit to be the proper subject-matter of a patent. The patent in question was taken out in this country by a Mr. Imry to protect a process invented by a Mr. Monnet for the manufacture of toluene sulphochlorides. The patent had to do with the conversion of toluene into toluene sulphochloride. The result of the old method was that only about one-half of the mass treated became toluene sulphochloride, the other half being left as toluene-sulphonic acid. Half of the balance was orthochloride, which was useful, and the other half para-chloride, which was useless. So the net result was that only about 25 per cent. of the ingredients was used, the remainder being not wanted. By the patent now in question it was pointed out that, by keeping the temperature at between zero and 5° C., and by employing a large excess of sulphuric acid over toluene, all the toluene became converted into toluene sulphochlorides. By this process all useless products were practically got rid of. The defendants contended that this invention, having regard to the state of public knowledge at the time, was not the proper subject-matter for a patent, and they said it had been anticipated by the publication in England in 1879 and 1881 of German chemical reports of papers by Beckurts & Otto and Claassen & Wallin. He had considered both those publications, but could not come to the conclusion that they were anticipations. Neither of the papers contained anything as to the lowering of the temperature, and Claassen & Wallin had not apparently grasped the fact that an excess of sulphuric acid would give a proportionate yield of sulphochlorides. Monnet's invention doubled the yield, and according to Professor Dewar no one had anticipated that the use of an excess of sulphuric acid would do that and convert the whole of the toluene into sulphochlorides. Then there was one incidental practical piece of evidence of considerable value. The Dresden firm from which the defendants obtained their saccharin had prior to Monnet's invention made use of the old methods of manufacture. But when Monnet's patent was made known in Germany they obtained a licence to use that patent. Then the defendants said that Monnet claimed for his process a complete conversion of toluene, and that this result was not borne out by the evidence. He did not quite see how that point arose, when they were considering subject-matter only, but evidence was given to show that in organic chemistry something was always lost in the process of manufacture. Under these circumstances he came to the conclusion that this was a useful and novel process, and that it was sufficiently described in Monnet's patent.

He therefore granted the injunction in the terms of the claim, and the costs must follow the event.

Mr. Moulton (who appeared for the plaintiffs) said that in this case they would take an account of profits.

#### BEECHAM'S PILLS.

IN the Chancery Division on December 8 Messrs. Mabyn & Co. (Limited), chemists and druggists, 1 King David Lane, Soadwell, consented to a perpetual injunction restraining them from selling, or offering for sale, as Beecham's pills, any pills not made by Beecham. Defendants will also pay an agreed sum as damages.

#### A CHEMIST'S LEASE.

IN the Chancery Division on December 8, Mr. Jenkins Q.C., moved for an injunction on behalf of Mr. W. G. Jameson, chemist, 48 Baker Street, W., to restrain Messrs. Woodward & Gibbs from continuing building-operations which they had already commenced. The action was in respect to the conversion of houses in College Crescent, Hampstead, into shops. Plaintiff has a private residence there and he considered the alterations in the houses adjoining a breach of the covenant. His Lordship held that there was no physical interference, although the residence would be made less agreeable, and dismissed the application.

#### ANOTHER "LIEBIG."

MR. MUIR MACKENZIE applied to Mr. Justice Byrne, on December 8, for an order to the Comptroller-General to proceed with an application for the registration of a trade-mark bearing the words "Liebig's Photograph Brand." The Comptroller had refused the mark, as it did not contain the essential particulars required by the Act. On the appeal being lodged, however, the Board of Trade referred it to the Court, with a direction that the applicants should serve notice upon Liebig's Extract of Meat Company (Limited), who had a trade-mark consisting of Professor Liebig's signature and the picture of an ox. Counsel submitted that the Board of Trade had no power to give any such direction, and no such notice had been served.

Mr. Irgle Joyce, for the Comptroller, having explained that the order referred to was given by his Lordship in chambers, his Lordship said he would allow Mr. Mackenzie's motion to be amended, so as to ask for a rescission of the order he had made in chambers, and the case was adjourned.

#### THE BEAVIS S.W. BOTTLE.

MR. JUSTICE FARWELL, sitting in the Chancery Division last week, heard the case of Beavis v. Rylands' Glass and Engineering Company (Limited). Mr. Bousfield, for the plaintiff—Mr. Beavis (Bristol)—explained that plaintiff had patented an improvement in the "Codd" aerated-water bottle which would reduce breakages by 20 per cent. "Starring" was a difficulty in which the Beavis invention made an improvement, as the ball could not roll so freely, while, as regards bushing, the Beavis patent permitted an easier passage to the brush. The horizontal indents in the Codd bottle were an inherent weakness. It was said by the defendants that fourteen or fifteen years ago they had made similar bottles to the Beavis one for a French firm. They were not, however, able to produce one of those bottles.

Mr. George White King of Bristol, and Mr. Dalglish, of Dalglish & Sons, Nottingham, testified in the witness-box to the advantage of the Beavis bottle. For the defence, evidence was produced to show that the plaintiff had been anticipated by a patentee named Jones, and Mr. Wilton Brook, secretary and manager of the defendant company, maintained that his firm had manufactured many years ago for a French firm a bottle which was substantially the same as the Beavis.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said that Jones had anticipated plaintiff, as he had already made a curved channel. The alteration and varying of the indent a little further up appeared to him no difference at all. His Lordship did not think that plaintiff had shown there was any advantage in cleaning and filling in the Beavis bottle, therefore his judgment was that plaintiff failed, and the action must be dismissed with costs.

#### An Oily Dispute.

THE first case at the Birmingham Assizes, which opened on December 11, was an action by John Brookes, a Kidder-



minster, fishmonger, against W. Skelton & Co., oil-merchants and drysalers, Hay Mills, Birmingham, for damages for breach of contract in connection with the sale of 45 gals. of cottonseed oil. The plaintiff bought a harrel of the oil from defendants for the purpose of frying fish in, but the people who ate the fish which had been fried in the last batch of the oil were taken ill, "in different degrees," counsel explained. On being analysed the oil was found to contain 25 per cent. of mineral oil. The defence was that the oil, which was supplied by Messrs Holmes, of Hull, was examined before it left defendants' premises, and was found to be pure. The jury found for the plaintiff, and fixed the damages at 10%.

### Apothecaries Act.

#### HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

THE decision in the case of alleged medical treatment by a homœopathist named Charles S. Spencer, at Ashton-under-Lyne, previously reported in our issue of December 2, page 906, was given at Ashton County Court on December 7. Judge Yate-Lee, prior to delivering judgment, elicited that the prosecution would be satisfied if the costs of the case were paid by the defendant. His Honour then said he thought it was a proper case for the Society to bring forward, but he could not help thinking that Mr. Spencer had done nothing which was morally wrong. Yet, he had rendered himself liable, and there would be a verdict for 20% and costs, plaintiffs assenting to waive the claim for 20%.

### Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

#### MAGNESIA.

AT Malmesbury, on December 7, Henry Fry, Minety, was summoned for selling magnesia which Dr. Dyer certified was not of the proper quality. The Bench thought the fault was not defendant's, and imposed a fine of 6*s.* and 9*s.* costs.

#### OLIVE OIL.

ALBERT CORKE, drug-vendor, Hawthurst, was fined 5*s.* and 12*s.* costs, at Cranbrook Petty Sessions on December 7, for selling as olive oil an article which the county analyst certified was composed entirely of cotton-seed oil.

#### SWEET SPIRIT OF NITRE.

AT Huddersfield Petty Sessions on December 5, Dennison Priestley, grocer, Golcar, was summoned for selling sweet spirit of nitre which was certified by the public analyst, Mr. Allen, of Sheffield, to be composed of ethyl nitrite 0.53, alcohol and legitimate water 99.47. The certificate further stated that

The sample contains little more than two-sevenths of the requisite amount of ethyl nitrite, which is the most active and characteristic constituent of sweet spirit of nitre, and which the B.P. requires to be present in a proportion of not less than 1½ per cent., even after the preparation has been kept for some time, and when the vessel containing it has been occasionally opened.

Mr. Reed, for the defence, at once objected to the "observations" on the certificate which, he said, were unauthorised, but he was overruled by the Bench. He thereupon cross-examined the inspector at great length as to his knowledge of the drug, and afterwards urged that there had been no fraud, and if his client had been guilty of any offence it had been done unwittingly. Defendant had kept the drug in a glass-stoppered bottle since March last, and stored it in a warm sunlighted window. It was likely to have greatly deteriorated, especially if the stopper had been taken out to supply customers. Another defence which he set up was that the wrong person had been summoned. The sample was sold to the inspector by Mrs. Priestley, and she ought to have been summoned, or, failing that, it should be proved that the defendant must have had guilty knowledge of the transaction.

The inspector said he could not reply to the points raised, and asked for an adjournment in order that he might have legal assistance.

The Chairman of the Bench said the present mind of the Magistrates was in the direction of dismissing the summons in face of the point raised by Mr. Reed, but the case was

eventually adjourned, the inspector consenting to pay one guinea and a half costs.

#### CAMPHORATED OIL.

THE adjourned case against William B. Baynham, chemist, Woking, was heard at Guildford Petty Sessions on December 9. Defendant was accused (see *C. & D.*, December 2, page 906) of selling camphorated oil 15 per cent. deficient in camphor, and the case was adjourned for the attendance of Dr. Stevenson, county analyst, to speak on the question of evaporation. Dr. Stevenson now deposed that he allowed 0.4 per cent. for evaporation; but the deficiency of 3.15 could not have occurred without great carelessness either in weighing or heating. Mr. Baynham pointed out that the British Pharmacopœia in a number of preparations gave definite instructions as to the use of heat, but in regard to camphorated oil no such instructions were given. Dr. Stevenson said the use of a little gentle heat would not, perhaps, be objectionable. He did not consider it a serious case of adulteration. The Bench acquitted defendant of any intention to defraud, and inflicted the nominal penalty of 1*s.*

AT Birmingham Police Court on December 8, William Curtis Miller, chemist and druggist, 107 Hockley Hill, was summoned for selling camphorated oil containing only 87 per cent. of the proper amount of camphor. The defendant suggested evaporation as the probable cause of the deterioration, and was fined 20*s.* and costs.

SAMUEL PARTRIDGE, chemist and druggist, 37 Grange Road, was also summoned for selling camphorated oil which contained only 87 per cent. of the proper amount of camphor, and which, in addition, was adulterated with 50 per cent. of foreign oil. Mr. Partridge, in the course of his evidence, said he himself put the ingredients together, strictly according to British Pharmacopœia requirements the night before the purchaser of the sample called. The camphor had not had time to dissolve properly. He bought the oil with which he made it from a Mr. Cox, and it was invoiced as pure.

In reply to a question from the Bench, it was stated that it did not appear to be a custom of the trade to test the material bought. Whereupon one of the Magistrates asked if the defendant ever took any steps to ascertain the nature of the drugs or oils he purchased.

Defendant replied: No, we don't profess to be analytical. Olive oil is a difficult oil to test, the operation takes so long.

The Magistrate said surely he was not speaking for the chemists of the city—it seemed such an incredible thing; but defendant said he believed it was the general custom.

John Cox, from whom defendant bought the oil, said he purchased it from a Liverpool firm, and the invoice (produced) bore the words "a cask of pure olive oil."

The Magistrate said the sooner the custom of testing drugs was established the better for the public, and a fine of 40*s.* and costs was imposed.

EMMA EVANS, 54 Cattell Road, was summoned for selling camphorated oil which contained only one-fourth of the camphor prescribed by the B.P. She stated that she had run out of camphorated oil, and had made up a little herself. She put it up in a 4 oz. bottle, and the camphor remained at the bottom in a lump, as it had not had time to dissolve. She had not a qualified man looking after the shop, which was a small one. She sold drugs, but did not make up prescriptions. She had a sufficient knowledge of drugs to make up these mixtures, as she had been in the business all her life. She was fined 20*s.* and costs.

THE last case was that of James Steen Harvey, chemist and druggist, 29 Arthur Street, and he was charged with selling camphorated oil containing only two-thirds of the necessary camphor. His excuse also was that the camphor had not had time to dissolve, and a fine of 40*s.* and costs was imposed.

#### MILK OF SULPHUR.

AT Skipton Petty Sessions on December 9 Samuel Dean, manager for the Cononley Co-operative Society's shop at Cononley, near Skipton, was summoned for selling milk of sulphur which, on analysis, was found to contain 34 per cent. of sulphur and 66 per cent. hydrated calcium sulphate.



The drug, said the inspector, was used in the case of children for blood-purification, and so large an adulteration would result in an opposite effect to that contemplated.

The defendant asked if there had been any change in the formula within the last year or two, and the Chairman of the Bench told him that if he dealt in these things he ought to know his business.

The defendant said the firm from whom the milk of sulphur had been purchased had put on their weekly price-list some time ago that all milk of sulphur purchased prior to November, 1898, must be destroyed. The society had done so. They bought 4 lbs. invoiced on February 13 last—three months after the date specified—which was warranted to be according to the B. P. The sample under consideration was taken from the February consignment.

The Chairman said it appeared to be a rather bad case, but whether it was wilful or not he could not say. A fine of 20s. and costs was imposed.

A SIMILAR case was heard on December 8 at Keighley, West Riding, Court, Walter Wilson, manager of the Sutton Co-operative Society being summoned for selling milk of sulphur which contained 42 per cent. of sulphur and 58 per cent. hydrated calcium sulphate. The Bench did not think there had been any wilful neglect, but whoever kept such articles must keep them up to the required standard. A fine of 2s. 6d. and costs was imposed.

### Merchandise-marks Act.

#### AERATED-WATER BOTTLES.

IN the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on December 12, Joseph Dunn, mineral-water manufacturer, 2 Greenhead Street, Glasgow, raised an action against the Anchor Mineral-water Company, 18 Tylefield Street, Glasgow, for interdict, alleging that defendants supply mineral waters in bottles impressed with complainer's name and trade-mark. A similar action has been brought by Andrew G Barr & Co., aerated-water manufacturers, 184 Great Eastern Road, Glasgow, against the Anchor Mineral-water Company. In both actions defendants deny that they have illegally used the bottles.

### A Perth Business-dispute.

IN the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on December 12, the record was closed in an action brought before Lord Low at the instance of James Jamieson Donald, chemist and druggist, Perth, against John Martin Donald, aerated-water manufacturer there, and also against the trustees of the late David Donald, chemist and druggist, Perth. Pursuer seeks to have it declared that he and J. Martin Donald are equally interested in the firm of Reid & Donald, as formerly carried on by their brother, David Donald, including the aerated-water business and the capital belonging thereto, and that the defender is bound to account for his intromissions with that business, and to enter into a formal deed of partnership. Alternatively, pursuer seeks payment of 2,000l. In his statement of facts pursuer says that his late brother David by his will left absolutely to him his business of Reid & Donald and the premises in which it was carried on, exclusive of his aerated-water business and premises; and that by a codicil he left that part of the business and the property to his brother John. David died on November 27, 1897, and on December 1 following pursuer and defender entered into a partnership agreement to carry on the businesses of chemists and druggists and aerated-water manufacturers at 29 George Street and George Inn Lane, Perth, under the firm of Reid & Donald as formerly. The agreement was to continue for twenty years. Pursuer says that his brother has recently taken exclusive possession of the aerated-water factory, and refused pursuer admission. In furtherance of his object pursuer says defender has changed the locks of which he had a key, that he has intimated to the bank not to cash cheques on the firm's account signed by pursuer, and that he has invested 2,000l. of the firm's funds in his own name, and maintains that the business belongs entirely to himself. The defender in his answers states that the agreement proceeded on is not binding on him, because it was entered into under essential error and on false representations. He says the

late David Donald employed pursuer in the chemist business, and the defender in the aerated-water business and that the latter was the more valuable. After the death of his brother he was much affected thereby, and he says that was taken advantage of, and it was represented to him that the codicil was not worth the paper it was written on, and that he was entitled to only 1,000l. He was thus induced to part with very valuable rights for a grossly inadequate consideration. He says he has not received any of the profits of the chemist business, but he has kept regular books of the aerated-water business. The pursuer, he avers, has interfered with the aerated-water business, has drawn 4,000l. from it, and has taken to intercepting letters with orders and remittances. He avers that pursuer is not a partner in that part of the business, and maintains that he has intromitted only with the business bequeathed to him by his brother David, and has not interfered with that part of the business bequeathed to the pursuer. The case will be debated on the procedure roll.

### Weights and Measures Acts.

#### A DEFICIENT QUART MEASURE.

AT Leicester on December 6, Mr. Sidney B. White, chemist, Leicester, was summoned for having in his shop at Syston a quart measure which was 10 dr. deficient. Defendant pleaded guilty, and explained that through an oversight on the part of his manager the vessel had not been recently tested. A fine of 24s., inclusive of costs, was imposed.

### County Court Cases.

#### DELIVERY OF GOODS.

IN the City of London Court on December 8, before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, Messrs. Hollingshurst & Co., chemical-merchants, 127 Fenchurch Street, E.C., brought an action against Messrs. Smiths & Co., 7 Eastcheap, to recover 3l. 7s. 6d. for casks of carboline supplied. Mr. Besant, plaintiffs' solicitor, said that the carboline had been sent at the defendants' request to Middlesborough, where they now were. The defence was that the goods had not been delivered in time. Mr. Besant said that under section 18 of the Sale of Goods Act, the contract being for the sale of specific goods in a deliverable state, the property in them passed to the defendant directly the contract was made. The defendant Mr. Smith said the goods were to have been sent by steamer from Middlesborough, and, as they did not catch the steamer, he lost his profit.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr said the defendants were still possessed of the goods, which were worth the same as they were originally. He must find for the plaintiffs for the sum claimed, and the defendants could bring an action if they could prove that they had sustained any damage by loss of profit or otherwise.

#### A RUNNING-DOWN CASE.

AT Birmingham County Court on December 8, Charles Winkett, jun., brought an action against Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barclay (Limited) to recover 40l. damages, the value of a horse which had to be slaughtered owing to injuries sustained, as plaintiff alleged, through the negligent driving of an employé of the defendants. Plaintiff alleged that a mineral-water waggon belonging to the defendants ran foul of his cab, and the waggon struck his horse, which fell with one of its legs under the wheel of the waggon. The leg was broken, and the animal had to be slaughtered. The case for defendants was that there was plenty of room for their waggon to pass, but the cab-horse plunged, and fell with its leg under the mineral-water waggon wheel. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for 20l., and judgment was given for that amount.

#### A NERVE-TONIC.

AT Salford County Court last week Frank Holt, Harpurhey, sought to recover 12s. 6d. for a bottle of "nerve-tonic" supplied to the defendant, Mr. J. B. Foden, a member of the Salford Borough Council. Plaintiff said the defendant ordered  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon of "his nerve-tonic." He sent the tonic, but when he applied for payment the defendant threatened to kick him out of the house. The defendant's



version was that when going on the Exchange one day plaintiff, whom he did not know, accosted him by name and said he was Dr. Holt, of Southport, on a visit to Manchester with his celebrated nerve-tonic. Defendant replied that he did not want any tonic; but plaintiff insisted on sending him some, and he wrote to plaintiff telling him that it was lying there at his risk. He had had the "tonic" analysed, and handed the result of the analysis to Judge Parry, who said it appeared from the analysis that the tonic contained 98 per cent. of water, and the analyst put the value of the mixture down at a penny per gallon. Continuing, the Judge said plaintiff would have to satisfy him that he was not trying to obtain money by false pretences. Why, he asked, do you call yourself "Dr."? Have you any degree?

The plaintiff: I have no degree. I was christened "Doctor."

In giving judgment his Honour said the plaintiff described himself as "Dr.," and had said he was christened "Doctor," but he put it in a manner that was unfair to the public, because it suggested to them that he was a doctor of medicine when he was nothing of the sort. Of course he had as perfect a right as anybody else to sell "nervine tonic," but he must sell it fairly. He gave judgment for the defendant, with costs upon the middle scale.

#### "PROMPT CASH."

AT Southwark County Court on December 11, Messrs. J. M. Smith & Co., manufacturing chemists, Southwark, and W. & A. Sparrow & Co., Jeffrey's Square, St. Mary Axe, E.C., to recover payment for disinfecting-powder supplied. Defendants wrote to plaintiffs asking for quotations for supplying a certain quantity of disinfecting-powder. Plaintiffs sent their usual terms, which included the ordinary trade discount of 20 per cent. Defendants sent an order for a sample, adding on the order-form that they were to be allowed 5 per cent. for prompt cash. Plaintiffs supplied the powder on the terms they had quoted, and an invoice was sent accordingly. Nothing was heard from the defendants until two months afterwards, when they forwarded payment of the account, less 5 per cent. deducted for "prompt cash." This was refused by the plaintiffs, who returned the cheque. Plaintiffs contended that the invoice was a proof that they had not accepted defendants' terms, and that, even if the plaintiffs did allow 5 per cent. for "prompt cash," defendants would not be entitled to it unless they paid within fourteen days. His Honour (Judge Addison, Q.C.) said the fact that plaintiffs had accepted the defendants' order with the additional terms thereon showed that they agreed to those terms. An order, and not a quotation, was the basis to go upon in making out an account. Consequently the plaintiffs failed on that point. As to the other, his notion of "prompt cash" was payment about the day following delivery. Evidence was given on behalf of the plaintiffs that "prompt cash" in the trade meant payment on or before delivery of goods, or at most within fourteen days of delivery. His Honour then held that defendants had not paid "prompt cash" within the proper meaning of that term, but as they had paid into court all but 2s., there would be judgment for the plaintiffs for that amount only, without costs.

#### SMELT LIKE A PUBLIC HOUSE.

AT Newton Abbot County Court on December 8, Mrs. G. Townley Parker, Dawlish, claimed 33s. odd, damages, from Mrs. S. J. Holden, also of Dawlish, for alleged breach of an agreement in the renting of a house. Plaintiff complained, among other things, that when after the letting of her furnished house to the defendant she retook the premises there was a very disagreeable smell in the best bedroom. This room had been occupied by Mrs. Holden, who suffered from asthma, for the relief of which she smoked stramonium. The smell permeated everything in the bedroom, and could not be got rid of. Mr. Cutcliffe, chemist, Dawlish, was called in, and as a result of his advice all the carpets, bedding, &c., were removed. Even then the smell was most objectionable; it was just "like the smell of a public-house first thing in the morning." To completely eradicate the smell it was necessary to repaper and recolour the room, at a cost of 20s., which Mrs. Holden was asked to pay. On behalf of Mrs. Holden it was stated that stramonium was burnt in the bedroom in a saucer, but the room was ventilated every

morning. The smell was attributed to the closing of the room by the agent at the end of M. S. Holden's tenancy. The Judge said it was a pity the ladies could not agree, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff.

#### NOT ABLE TO PAY.

IN the Westminster County Court on December 7, a medical man named Jenkins, practising at Southampton Street, W.C., applied for the reduction of an order made against him in respect of a quantity of drugs supplied by Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co. The applicant said he was quite unable to pay 8s. down as ordered, but was willing to pay by instalments of 1s. a month, and a new order in those terms was made.

#### OIL OF VITRIOL AS A LINIMENT.

AT the Blandford County Court on December 12, James Hayter, fishmonger, Childe Okeford, sued Richard H. Groves, pharmaceutical chemist, Blandford, for 50s., in respect to damages sustained through the negligence of the defendant or one of his assistants.

Plaintiff stated that last April he met Dr. Carme's dispenser (Mr. Wallace) and told him that he suffered from rheumatics, whereupon Mr. Wallace wrote something on a piece of envelope, telling him it was stuff to rub in as a liniment. This piece of paper and a bottle he sent to Mr. Groves's shop at Blandford, by a carrier named Savory, and got in return a bottle of stuff, which burned a hole in his wife's hand and blistered his foot so much that he had to be attended by a doctor for a month afterwards. The bottle sent back was, he said, not the same as he had sent, and the prescription was not returned at all. He asked Savory to call at Mr. Groves's shop for the piece of paper, which he did, but it could not be found. If instead of a white label on the bottle there had been a red one he should have thought it was dangerous stuff, but, as he had received many lotions and liniments from Mr. Groves, he did not take any notice of the label.

Mr. Alex. Wallace remembered plaintiff telling him about his rheumatism, and witness recommended him two things—oil of mustard and oil of cabbage. One of these he wrote, at plaintiff's request, on a piece of paper, but he did not know which. He certainly did not write "oil of vitriol."

His Honour (Judge Philbrick, Q.C.): What is "oil of cabbage"?

Mr. Trevor Davies (for the defendant): There is no such stuff. It does not occur in the Pharmacopœia.

Edward Savory, carrier, deposed that he took the piece of paper and the bottle as given him by Hayter to defendant's shop, and delivered them to the young man behind the counter. He did not read what was written on the paper, and he was quite sure that he did not ask the assistant for "oil of vitriol." He admitted having made mistakes by leaving the wrong orders at Mr. Groves's.

For the defence it was contended that the carrier was the innocent cause of the mistake. It was suggested that he lost the bottle and paper received from Hayter, and, having seen "oil of something" on the paper, went to the chemist's shop and asked for "oil of vitriol." In support of this contention, Arthur Henry Taylor, an apprentice in the employ of defendant, stated that Savory asked him for oil of vitriol. Witness referred to the manager, who told him the price. He filled the bottle which Savory brought, labelled and wrapped it. This statement was borne out by George Dolton Courtenay, chemist and druggist, the manager of the establishment. He had a perfect remembrance of the circumstances, but saw no paper, and there was no order either on the file or in the prescription-book. Mr. Groves himself also gave evidence, but as he was not in the shop when the incident occurred could not add anything of material advantage.

His Honour, in summing up, said the negligence imputed to the defendant was of a serious character. It was true that the bottle was labelled "Oil of Vitriol" in large letters and "Poison" in larger letters, but they had got so accustomed of late years to see red labels on bottles containing poisons that this white label was not noticed by the plaintiff.

The jury, after a short deliberation, gave a verdict for the defendant—a verdict with which his Honour remarked that he thoroughly agreed.



## New Companies & Company News.

**INNES & Co. (LIMITED).**—Capital 25 000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. To manufacture and deal in "Innes' Patent Metallic Zinc Powder," oils, antifonling compositions, &c. The first directors are F. E. Hagerup, H. Samman, W. H. Cockline (chairman), and R. Innes. Qualification 50*l.* Remuneration 25*l.* each per annum.

**ELECTROLYTIC ALKALI COMPANY (LIMITED).**—We are informed that letters of allotment have been posted.

**PARKE'S DRUG STORES (LIMITED).**—The annual report and balance-sheet of this company for the fifteen months ending September 30 have been issued, and were presented to the shareholders at the annual meeting, held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on December 14. The report states that the company now own twenty-three shops. The sales during the past fifteen months have been well maintained, but in consequence of the increase of new businesses and severe competition in prices the net profits have suffered. The amount for depreciation of leases has been met out of the revenue, as well as 711*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* spent on repairs and renewals. A sum of 1,000*l.* paid by holders of deferred shares has been placed to the credit of the reserve funds, which now amount to 5 477*l.* The net balance for the fifteen months amounts to 4,027*l.*, out of which have been paid dividends and preference shares for the full fifteen months, amounting to 1 830*l.*, including quarterly dividend paid on October 20. The directors recommend a final dividend of 4½ per cent., free of income-tax, upon the ordinary shares, making 7½ per cent. paid on this class of shares since the last report, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. This will require 1,130*l.* and will leave a balance of 425*l.* to be carried forward. The profit and loss account shows that the profit on the trading during the fifteen months, less working-expenses, amounted to 5,965*l.* This with the interest on investments and a small balance from 1898 brings the total up to 6 477*l.* The expenses of management, including directors' fees, were 2 450*l.* In the balance-sheet the liabilities include 10,265*l.* for sundry creditors, and in the assets sundry debtors are put down at 1 458*l.*, stock-in-trade at 22 850*l.*, and plant, fixtures and fittings for head office and branches 24,394*l.* During the fifteen months 711*l.* has been written off in respect of repairs and renewals, and 600*l.* has been added to the depreciation account.

Mr. Warnford Davis (Chairman), in moving the adoption of the report, commented upon the closing of the Kensington business, and various items in the accounts, especially explaining that the whole of the preliminary expenses would be wiped off by next year, and twenty shops would be free from debt. He proceeded to enlarge on the question of the cutting of prices during the past year. Rival traders got frightened, he said, when they heard that Parke's was going to open in their neighbourhood, and immediately put down their prices with the object of cutting the ground from Parke's feet. He considered such competition absurd. As to the future of the company, he said that next year they hoped to pay as large a dividend as this year, and in 1901 a larger. Next year two new shops would perhaps be opened, with the Kensington fittings; then they would rest for a bit.

Mr. Currie did not think the purchase of the Chelmsford business an advantage. The customers who patronised the man who owned such a business were not likely to give their custom to a firm like Parke's, there being still a material prejudice against store-trading by old-fashioned people.

The Chairman having replied, the report and balance-sheet were adopted, and 25*l.* voted to the *Telegraph* Widows Fund. Mr. John Lorimer and Mr. A. Chatto were re-elected directors.

**CHEMISTS' AERATED AND MINERAL WATERS ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).**—A meeting of the shareholders of this company will be held at Anderson's Hotel, 162 Fleet Street, E.C., on December 19, for the purpose of approving the report and balance-sheet and also of considering the reconstruction of the company. Propositions will be put forward by the directors that a new company be formed, of the name

of "Camwal" (Limited); that the capital be increased from 50,000*l.* to 250 000*l.*; and that 82,968 ordinary shares, 50 000 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares, and 35 000 4½ per cent. debentures be issued. Each shareholder in the old company will be given in exchange for his share two ordinary fully-paid shares in the new company, together with half of a 5 per cent. cumulative preference share. Where an old share is held a certificate will be given entitling the holder to a half preference share, two of which will represent a fully-paid-up share. In addition to increasing the capital the directors propose to extend the powers of the company to enable additional factories or depots to be opened, and also to undertake the agency for the distribution of foreign waters, &c. At present the Association can only supply chemists who are shareholders, and hospitals. It is proposed that "Camwal" (Limited) shall supply chemists, hospitals, public institutions, hotels, &c., but "the retail syphon-trade in 'Camwal' waters will be thoroughly protected to the chemists, as no wine-merchant, grocer, or other such retailer can be supplied." Should any chemist be in a position to secure the mineral-water trade of public institutions, &c., and be disinclined to bear the outlay necessary for the supply, the new company will take over all risks and expenses and allow a certain percentage on the trade done to the chemist introducing the business. Under the reconstruction the directors hope to get a Stock Exchange quotation for the shares. The new company will take over the old company with all liabilities and assets as from September 30, and there will be no change whatever in the management. After the payment of dividend, bonus, income-tax, and bonuses to employees, it is expected that the balance, when added to the reserve of 369*l.*, will be more than sufficient to cover the expenses of the reconstruction. The annual report and balance-sheet for the past year show that there has been a continued increase in the number of members, in the amount of sales, and in the profits. There has been during the year an increase of 234 shareholders, bringing the total up to 4,849. The directors recommend that a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, be paid. The gross profit, after deducting depreciation, is stated at 19 438*l.*, and the net balance, after deducting all expenses, is 7 716*l.* Sundry creditors are stated at 7,963*l.*, and reserve account stands at 25,939*l.* Amongst the assets, property and plant, and improvements are put at 33 511*l.*; tablets, giant syphons, &c., 5,036*l.*, syphons, bottles and cases, &c., in stock 29 110*l.*, stock-in-trade 2 455*l.*, balance due from customers, including syphons on loan, amounts to 37,803*l.* Sundry debtors rank at 89*l.*

## The Spectacle-makers' Company.

THE pass-list of the November examination shows that of the ninety-seven candidates who actually presented themselves for examination sixty-two passed—a percentage of 60. Among the candidates there were sixteen chemists, of whom fourteen passed—a percentage of 87.5. The following is a list of the successful chemists:—

Mr. C. S. Addison, 6 Market Hill, Cambridge.  
Mr. W. H. Cockle, 39 High Street, King's Lynn.  
Mr. J. T. Emerson, 25 High Street, Halstead, Essex.  
Mr. D. Evans, 1 Church Street, Rhos Neabon.  
Mr. P. J. D. Fielding, 80 Patrick Street, Cork.  
Mr. W. A. Fox, 6 Albion Street, Cleckheaton, Yorks.  
Mr. W. C. Gowans, Edzell, Brechin, N.B.  
Mr. R. H. Groves, 3 Market Place, Blandford.  
Mr. F. C. Long, 35 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds.  
Mr. T. Mackenzie, F.C.S., Church Street, Inverness.  
Mr. J. B. Martin, Market Place, Helstone, Cornwall.  
Mr. J. D. Rodriguez, 75 Dalhousie Street, Rangoon, Burmah.  
Mr. W. Thomson, 17 Almeida Street, N.  
Mr. T. W. Wright, 14 Commercial Street, Leeds.

There are, we understand, five candidates for the two vacancies on the Optical Committee, so that an election is inevitable. Fellows of the Company will receive intimation of the election, which will take place by post.

AMONG the exhibits at the Paris Exhibition will be a representative collection of cardamoms and cocoa from Ceylon.



## Correspondence.

*In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.*

### Notice to Correspondents.

*Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the section to which they apply should be strictly observed.*

### Camwal (Limited).

SIR,—Referring to the letter of information respecting the reasons for the reconstruction of this company, I note that it is proposed to supply (*inter alia*) "hotels, &c."

Permit me to point out that in doing this the directors will be opening up a class of trade which is bound, in the result, to be injurious to chemists, and that the term "&c." is so delightfully vague and comprehensive that there is probably more extension contemplated than meets the eye. What is an hotel in the estimation of the directors? I know some dignified by that name which are mere dram-shops. Is it contemplated to allow such places to enter into competition with us? I know also that many hotel (!) proprietors in rural districts go out cadging for orders, and the prospect of seeing my syphon-trade, which has been carefully built up, swept into the omnivorous net of these gentlemen is not reassuring. As a shareholder unable to attend the meeting on December 19 I protest against this perversion of the aims of the company, and I sincerely hope that those present will insist, if not upon the exclusion of hotels entirely, at any rate upon some very stringent definition of the term, and will further insist upon the exclusion of all such vague generalities as "&c." from the articles of association.

I am, yours truly,

FRANCIS E. ROOKLEDGE.

Easingwold,

December 12.

SIR,—As Mr. Rookledge has courteously sent me a copy of a letter which he has addressed to you, I shall be glad if you will allow me to say that it is not the intention of the directors to supply "Camwal" syphons to retailers in competition with chemists or to anybody (excepting chemists) who sends out waters to the public.

Yours faithfully,

London, December 13.

H. T. BUTLER,

Secretary to "Camwal."

[We gladly print Mr. Butler's note, especially as a report from Dewsbury indicates that the company will supply any shareholder. We believe there will be general regret throughout the drug-trade that the directors of "Camwal" have resolved to depart from the strictly pharmaceutical lines upon which the company has hitherto been worked, and which have been so successful that it now numbers nearly five thousand members, or about half of the retail drug-trade of Great Britain. It will be noticed that the guarantee as to exclusive supply to chemists is limited to syphons, the words of the circular being "the retail syphon-trade in 'Camwal' waters will be thoroughly protected to the chemists, as no wine-merchant, grocer, or other such retailer can be supplied."—Ed.]

### The Birth of the Bovril Bullock.

SIR,—We notice a letter in your issue of December 9, in which an artist signing himself "J.C." seeks to claim some share of the congratulations your good selves and others have been lately showering upon us on the success of our poster "Alas! my poor brother."

Your correspondent in fact suggests that the picture you print inspired the poster we are now using. I think that if your readers will place the two side by side, they will at once see the absurdity of his claim; but, if it is any satisfaction to him, we have no hesitation in giving our assurance that the idea referred to was never in any way communicated by us to the firm of printers whose artist produced the poster.

We can, however, go further than that—your correspondent claims that on July 31, 1897, he submitted the idea to you. We take it the point of similarity is simply the concentration of the ox in a bottle of bovril.

Well, in January 1898, the subjoined picture was freely

used by us and commented on by the journal *Fame*, in their issue of February, 1898, in the following words:—

"What a number of neat and often really clever advertisements Bovril (Limited) have got out. . . . A recent example (that of the lady apostrophising Bovril in a Byron stanza) is singularly pretty."

If there is any similarity of thought between our picture, "Alas! my poor brother," and your correspondent's, there is the same between the latter and our picture enclosed; and we might equally claim that, in competing for your prize, Mr. "J. C." had borrowed a thought from our design, "Shrine of the Mighty." We enclose also a print of the poster for easy comparison.

We are, dear Sir, yours truly,

BOVRIL (LIMITED).

(Andrew Walker, Managing Director.)

[The prints come too late for reproduction. The 1896 design is that of a handsome woman sitting by a tea-table on which are a kettle and a bovril-cup. She holds a bottle of bovril in her left hand, and a rough-looking Highland bullock is limned in the back-ground as gazing on the bottle, the inscription being—

"Shrine of the Mighty! can it be  
That this is all remains of me?"

Clearly Bovril has it.—Ed.]

### Mr. Boot and Qualified Directors.

SIR,—In your issue of December 9, page 947, you are good enough to remark:—

It will be observed, from our report of the annual meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. Boots (Limited), Nottingham, that the most astute and far-seeing gentleman who presided at the meeting gave an indication that he at least is beginning to put his house in order in anticipation that the Legislature will see the reasonableness of our qualified-directorate suggestion.

Whilst thanking you for the compliment, I must disclaim all intention of having formulated this proposal in view of the present state of affairs. It is a very familiar proposition to my mind, and has been my fixed purpose for some years; but the success of our own business has just now brought the project to fulfilment quite irrespective of any legislation affecting company-pharmacy.

Yours faithfully,

Nottingham, December 13.

JESSE BOOT,

Managing Director, Boots (Limited),  
Chemists and Druggists.

### A Hint to Assistants.

SIR,—Some time ago I had occasion to advertise for a qualified assistant. Of the nine applications received only one was written upon a decent piece of notepaper, one or two used torn-off half-sheets, but the majority considered a 2 oz. sheet of white demy, folded over, quite sufficient. For the greater part these letters were written in a most slovenly manner, the writing crowded into the bottom right-hand corner, with barely enough room to squeeze in the signature. Strange enough, the only decent application came from a "good man once," but, as his letter showed, his orderly habits were still with him. Last week I advertised locally for a "junior," and again the same class of letters turned up. What is the meaning of it? The dearth of assistants cannot be the reason. It must be in the training of apprentices where the deficiency arises. I am informed my case is no exception, and that a neatly-written application on a nice sheet of paper is comparatively rare. You, sir, in your editorial columns often comment upon the causes of business success to both men and masters, and I think a timely word from you upon orderliness would be a word in season. The party who would write a slovenly application for a situation is just as capable of being slovenly all through—he is fit enough to chew a cork before putting it into a dispensing phial or to use a chip-necked bottle for a prescription. It is the little things that count in pharmacy, and go a long way towards success.

Yours very truly,

Glasgow, December 12.

ARTHUR MCKELLAR.

[We could not say it better than Mr. McKellar, except to add that it is, if anything, a degree worse to apply for a situation on the present employer's paper—as some assistants do.—Ed.]



## The "Mum" Majority.

In feverish expectancy we open

The pages of our welcome C. & D.,  
For we wot not of the word that hath been spoken  
In the classic hall of Wisdom's sanctuary.  
We search the sprightly pages, hoping vainly  
To find the luckless Cutter stricken numb;  
But, alas! "the Council's biz was routine mainly,"  
And the valiant Majority was dumb.

Brave and bold majority,  
Show superiority  
By keeping very wisely "mum."

The rousing speech of radical reformers  
So lately chilling Toryism blue,  
Has brought reply from far unheard-of corners,  
Amazing and most marvellous to view.  
And the bulk have said in plain, unvarnished language  
That pharmaceutical companies are scum  
That must be scotched or sliced up like a sandwich!  
Small wonder the Majority was "mum!"  
Gasp the bold Majority  
(Now in sad minority):  
"You'll have to wait till kingdom come."

MINOR POET. (29/96)

## Tarry Ammonias.

SIR,—Referring to some of the matters discussed at last meeting (page 998) of the Chemists' Assistants' Association, I am surprised that so many wholesale chemists think it worth their while to send out ammonia and its preparations with certain objectionable characteristics which unfit them for employment by many of their customers. We have repeatedly had to complain of the tarry odour of liq. ammon. fort., and, even when this is absent, of a disagreeable acrid odour suggestive of chlorine. We promptly returned a parcel of ammon. carb. which possessed the same disagreeable characteristics, making it quite worthless for the ordinary purposes of our trade. Worst of all, in rubbing up the other day some ammon. bromid., bearing the name of one of our best drug-houses, unmistakable evidence of the source of the ammonia employed in its preparation was conveyed to us in the ordinary course of dispensing. As it happens, this is a salt on which we have previously heard critical remarks from a member of the medical profession who was using it for photographic purposes. There is probably a market for goods of the quality indicated above, but there is no reason why the ordinary trade should be expected to share in their distribution without a previous understanding as between buyer and seller.

Yours faithfully,

December 12.

C. (201/73.)

## Tropic Botany.

SIR,—I came across this curious piece of tropic botany which may be of interest:—"The palm and the bamboo are common . . . one variety of palm. The Palma Christi is a source of castor oil."—"The West Indies," by A. K. Fiske, A.M.

Very faithfully yours,

Dikk Mat-Karo.

W. H. INC.

November 22.

## Sweet Spirit of Nitre.

SIR,—In a series of quantitative tests published in the C. & D. in 1877, sweet spirit of nitre was mentioned (April number, page 146) as one of the substances which could, apart from a slight abnormality due apparently to acidity, be estimated in the usual time of thirty seconds by the acid permanganate test used in the series for about three hundred official preparations. I was recently struck by the article on sweet spirit of nitre by Messrs R. C. Cowley and J. P. Catford (C. & D., November 18 page 831), but I submit that the now old test just mentioned allows the pharmacist to readily and easily estimate sweet spirit of nitre in thirty seconds solutions of peroxide of hydrogen in the same way. The method I described in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 1877, and the Year-book of Pharmacy, 1878 is the method applied to-day to the albuminoids of food-stuffs; nothing is altered.

Let me just describe the solution and application to a sample of sweet spirit of nitre. Sol. potass. perm., 1 c.c.; dilute sulphuric acid, 6 c.c.; water to 100 c.c.; 50 c.c. a *norme*.

*Experiment*.—Place 5 c.c. of the acid permanganate in a small flask, fill a 10 c.c. pipette with a one-in-ten water-solution of sweet spirit of nitre. Take the flask in the left hand and shake continuously whilst delivering the nitrous solution regularly in running drops, to complete decolourisation of the acid permanganate. The whole examination of sweet spirit of nitre is performed from a single cubic centimetre in one minute, and includes the approximate percentage of alcohol. For example, sweet spirit of nitre of a local pharmacy, 1 c.c.; water, 1 c.c., heat evolved immediately, 8° Fah. (say, 86 per cent. alcohol), further dilution to 10 c.c. with water; 2.5 c.c. of dilution decolourise *tenth norme*—i.e. 2.5 c.c. of sweet spirit of nitre, the *norme*. constant dividend 5 = 2 per cent. ethyl nitrite in the sweet spirit of nitre (5 ÷ 2.5).

Again, I think the colour-experiment would be considerably simplified by my yellow-brown colour-scale (acid permanganate run into weak solution of potassium iodide).

I wish simply to suggest that Messrs. Cowley and Catford may make their interesting test still simpler.

Yours faithfully,

November 22.

J. BARKER SMITH.

## Women Dispensers.

SIR,—In the earlier days the women dispensers were nearly all known to each other, and in little social gatherings, over which the memory lingers pleasantly, difficulties were talked over and solved.

Then, as more women came in and spread themselves over the country, it was impossible to keep in touch with all; but in many cases fresh centres were formed, where the same informal mutual help was given and received.

Now it is being asked if this is the time for joining these centres into an association for women dispensers only.

Well, personally, I think not. Among the majority there is no strong feeling in favour of it.

The women dispensers are too few in numbers—too scattered—and many of them holding small posts, yielding proportionately minute salaries, do not look upon dispensing as a life-long pursuit, but regarding their appointments as stepping-stones to something more lucrative pass out to other callings.

Thus there would be difficulty in keeping up sustained interest and a sufficient number of staunch permanent members.

I doubt whether, if an association were formed, it would have a long life; also with the associations connected with pharmacy already existing there does not seem to be a necessity for the creation of a fresh one.

It would be far better to join and so strengthen existing societies which receive women as members.

Mr. Forster, Hon. Secretary of the Public Dispensers' Association, has, invited their co-operation with that body. From the very first dispensers in public institutions have been generous in their help to their sister fellow-workers, giving them freely, when applied to, the benefit of their experience in the details of dispensing-work.

R. M. (18/11.)

## Dispensing Notes.

## Urotropin.

SIR,—A correspondent last week asks what should be dispensed for urotropin. Urotropin is hexamethylene-tetramine,  $(CH_2)_6N_4 + 6H_2O$ , obtained by heating formic aldehyde with ammonia. Saliformine is the salicylate of this body.

Yours truly,

December 12.

E. J. PARRY.

## An Unsightly Mixture.

SIR,—How should I dispense the following so that it will be inseparable?—

Ol. morrhuae ...	...	...	...	3iv.
Ferr. am. cit. ...	...	...	...	gr. v.
Pot. carb. ...	...	...	...	gr. iij.
Glusidi ...	...	...	...	gr. 4
Ol. carui ...	...	...	...	mj.
Aq. ad ...	...	...	...	3j.

Ft. mist.

Yours, &c.

C. B. (182/34.)

☞ [In small quantities it is not possible to make this inseparable. You had better suggest to the prescriber that it be made into an emulsion with acacia.]



## Legal Queries.

150/9. *J. J. C.*—The sale of the wheat-dressing is not an infringement of any Act of Parliament.

184/65. *Pulvis.*—Your label for egg-powder is not at all likely to lead you into trouble under the Merchandise-marks Act, as you clearly state that it is "a substitute for eggs."

184/39. *Perplexed.*—A month's notice to leave a situation can be given at any time after entering employment. Probably your employer is under the impression that the custom in the drug-trade is the same regarding a month's trial as in domestic service, but we do not think that can be upheld.

175/8. *Rhei*—Aqua chloroformi and spiritus chloroformi are preparations of chloroform, and as such cannot be retailed by unqualified persons.

193/67. *J. H. N.*—The sale of the "Female Mixture" under the conditions which you mention (no recommendation) is not illegal.

192/15. *J. W.*—(1) Companies may, like individuals, register trade-marks in their own name. (2) Any person or group of persons may call themselves a company without being registered as a limited company on the conditions mentioned in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, page 216. (3) See "Pharmaceutical Formulas."

194/28. *Alcohol.*—Methylated-spirit licences are granted to "off" wine-retailers, but not to persons licensed to retail beer, spirits, wine, or sweets for consumption on the premises.

194/15. *A. D.*—As you instructed the wholesale house to send the goods by a certain firm of carriers, the carriers were your agents, and the delivery by the wholesale house was equivalent to delivery to you; therefore you must seek redress from the carriers.

194/20. *E. M.*—You may sell the perfumed benzin as described in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," provided you take care to label it "Highly Inflammable." On this point see THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, page 219. Benzoline is not benzin, but we have never heard of a case under the Merchandise-marks Act for selling it as "benzin," but we see no reason why a case should not be proved.

178/27. *Dens.*—See our report of the General Medical Council meeting last week.

186/44. *Photographer.*—You should not copy any photograph until you are assured that it is not copyright.

190/60. *Inquirer.*—Read the note "How to Qualify" in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1900, page 214.

183/7. *Apothecary.*—We cannot trace the case to which you refer. The *Lotinga* case mentioned in our DIARY, page 218, is the one which is generally acted upon by the Courts.

196/55. *Discount.*—Deductions made from wholesalers' statements of account are usually the subject of printed notices by these firms, and are not sufficiently uniform to amount to a custom of the trade. We do not understand what you mean by "a reasonable time for payment," but if more than six months we should say the right to discount has lapsed.

195/25. *Kissing Bee.*—We certainly advise you to make your peace with the inventors of the article as soon as you can. You have not only violated their invention, for which a patent has been applied for, but have actually copied their wrapper. A High Court judge would deal very smartly with such a case. We can return you your correspondence and samples if you send us a stamped and addressed envelope for them. This should always be done by correspondents who send us anything the return of which is expected.

201/25. *Subscriber.*—One month's notice to assistants is the custom of the drug-trade.

## Miscellaneous Inquiries.

124/8. *O. (Paris).*—White Embrocation:—

Ol. terebinth....	...	...	3vj.
Ol. camph. ess.	...	...	3ij.
Ol. nucis	...	...	3iv.
Ovi	...	...	No. ij.
Ac. acetic.	...	...	3ij.
Aque ad	...	...	Oj.

Mix the eggs with the turpentine in a mortar, strain into the bottle, add the other ingredients, and shake till the emulsion is formed.

180/30. *High Peak.*—Erasmus Wilson's Hair-wash—The following represents what is now sold under this name:—

Liq. ammoniæ	...	...	3iij.
Ol. amygd. dulc.	...	...	3iij.
Aq. mellis	...	...	3iv.
Spt. rosmarini	...	...	3iv.
Aq. rose ad	...	...	3xxiv.

The original formulas contained no water, but were made up with a spirituous medium.

175/43. *Northport.*—After a study of Hurst's "Colour," 7s. 6d. (Scott Greenwood), and "Scientific Mysteries," 1s. (C. & D. office), you should have no difficulty in preparing a popular lecture on "Co'lour."

111/8. *B. M. M.*—Neuralgia-mixture—The formula you submit is absurdly complicated; it would be better to leave out half the ingredients, so that the following results:—

Quin. sulph.	...	...	gr. xij.
Tr. ferri	...	...	3j.
Liq. strych.	...	...	℥xxv.
Tr. gelsem.	...	...	3j.
Aq. chlorof. ad	...	...	3vj.

3ss. t.d.s. ex aq.

182/19. *Exmoor.*—Petroleum Emulsion:—

Soft paraffin, vaseline, or heavy petroleum oil	...	...	3j.
Powdered acacia	...	...	3ss.
Essence of almonds (1-20)...	...	...	℥vj.

Mix in a mortar, and add all at once—

Distilled water	...	...	3vj.
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and triturate continuously for five minutes, then add, drachm by drachm, the following:—

Sodium hypophosphite	...	...	3ss.
Calcium hypophosphite	...	...	3j.
Hypophosphorous acid	...	...	℥vj.
Elixir of saccharin	...	...	3j.
Distilled water	...	...	3vj.

Dose: A teaspoonful and upwards.

180/24. *Marcus.*—White Fur is cleaned by rubbing, first with bran moistened with boiling water, then with dry bran, and finally with carbonate of magnesia. The bran and magnesia is applied with a cloth or flannel, and the fur is rubbed in the first stages against the fur, but towards the end it is rubbed the way of the fur. We do not know of any powder that will clean fur "by being simply dusted upon it."

182/37. *Inquirer.*—We do not know why the price of hydrocyanic acid varies so much in the wholesale price-lists, but can quite understand wholesale houses requiring a fair remuneration for the greater amount of care needed in packing, storing, and guaranteeing such a volatile and potent substance.

174/26. *W. S.*—(1) You cannot have anything cheaper than oils of citronella and verberna for masking the smell of ung. carbonis detergens. (2) Ringer's "Therapeutics," 16s. (Lewis), is the standard work on therapeutics. (3) Squire's "Hospital Pharmacopœias" is published by Churchill at 6s.

172/42. *Climax.*—We do not quite understand your query. If it means how are you to avoid evaporation of camphor in making large quantities of camphorated oil, we can only give you the obvious answer—use a closed vessel.



142/8. *A. S. (N.S.W.).*—(1) Ticket-ink.—One base for this is made by boiling 2 oz. of shellac, 2 oz. of borax, and 2 oz. of gum acacia in 25 oz. of water till dissolved, and colouring with a suitable aniline dye or mineral colour. Another kind we have seen is a solution of gum acacia in chloroform-water, the various colours being produced by adding Venetian red, Prussian blue, chrome green, chrome yellow, or zinc white. (2) We are inquiring.

24/11. *X. Y. Z.*—Dressing a Window for Christmas.—This was the subject of one of our competitions in 1894, the results of which were published in the *C. & D.*, December 1, 1894, page 774. If you will refer to that number you will get plenty of ideas in window-dressing to work from.

145/38. *Cattle-salesman.*—The preparation used for sticking labels on to sheep's wool is a solution of resin in spirit; factitious Venice turpentine, thinned, answers very well.

154/52. *J. S.*—(1) The sample of marking-ink you send is an aniline one. A formula for a similar product is given in the *C. & D.*, February 22, 1896, page 303, or "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 375. (2) The following is the basis for Gum-jujubes:—Gum acacia, 28 lbs.; sugar, 12 lbs. Dissolve in a sufficiency of water by means of heat, strain, and evaporate to such a consistency that a little taken out and put on a cold plate solidifies. For glycerin-jujubes glycerin is added, and takes the place of the water which would otherwise be left on evaporation. Delectable jujubes are flavoured with tolu, liquorice, and lemon. Voice-jujubes are similar to delectable, but have tincture of capsicum in addition. The colours of the jujubes are easily managed, but we do not think anyone who has not seen gum-jujubes made can make them from a written description.

181/22. *Mehr Licht.*—(1) The domestic-medicine measures in use in France are—

Le "drachm," fl. 3j., représente une cuillerée à café (a teaspoonful).

Deux "drachms," fl. 3ij., représentent une cuillerée à dessert ou cuillerée moyenne (a dessertspoonful).

Le "ounce," fl. 3j., représente deux cuillerées à soupe ou à bouche (two tablespoonfuls).

Une demie "ounce," fl. 3ss., représente une grande cuillerée à soupe ou à bouche (a tablespoonful).

(2) We make the quantity of liq. arsen. in each dessertspoonful of the prescription you send to be about 4 drops. What you take to be "3" before "c. à dessert" will probably turn out to be the letter "m." (3) You might try gelatin-coating the Stilton cheese so as to prevent mites, but the cheese would need to be prepared under aseptic conditions and sterile to ensure success.

183/69. *R. W.*—Railway-rates.—These are fully dealt with in the official "General Railway Classification of Goods," 1s. (Friscott), which you can procure at most railway goods-depôts.

184/40. *N. B.*—(1) The formula for Cod-liver Oil Emulsion to which you refer has not been given lately, so we repeat it:—

Pulv. acacie ...	...	...	3ij.
Pulv. tragacanth.	...	...	3ij.
Pulv. amyli ...	...	...	3ij.
Ol. morrhue ...	...	...	3xxiv.

Mix well by shaking in a bottle and add gradually—

Aque ...	...	...	3xvj.
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When emulsified add—

Syrupi ...	...	...	3vj.
Ol. amygd. ess.	...	...	xxx.
Spt. chloroformi	...	...	3ss.

190/47. *Boer.*—The formula for *Tr. Aloes Co. P.L.* is—

Socotrine or hepatic Aloes ...	...	3iv.
Saffron ...	...	3ij.
Tincture of myrrh (myrrh 3ij., S.V.R. Oij.) ...	...	Oij.

Macerate seven days.

186/48. *P. V. J.*—(1) Lard prepared under aseptic conditions, and care being taken to exclude water, keeps well. In other cases boric acid is added, or the surface of the lard

is covered with a cloth impregnated with formaldehyde, with the object of keeping the air above the lard in an aseptic condition. (2) Books on Sugar-refining—Lock and Newlands's "Sugar Growing and Refining," 30s. (Spon); Ware's "Sugar-beet and the Beet-sugar Industry," 21s. (Low); Spencer's "Handbook for Chemists of Beet-sugar Houses," 12s. 6d. The two first named are standard works, but not of recent date.

177/50. *Developer.*—(1) There is a representative formula for a dry-developer on page 267 of *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*, 1900. (2) We do not recommend you to increase the quantity of veratria in the nit-ointment ("Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 67) "two or three times." Surely you can appreciate the danger of such a proceeding.

171/26. *Syr. Eastonii*—Liq. pro *Syr. Eastonii*.—The formula for this, which you complain gives a product with a heavy precipitate after a time, is too strong in quinine. The precipitate is acid phosphate of quinine. In the case of Easton's syrup it has been found that a reduction of the quantity of acid present and the use of English phosphate of quinine made a more permanent syrup. There was a good paper on this subject by Mr. Squire in the *C. & D.*, March 29, 1893, page 422.

184/15. *L.*—We do not know the Standard Perfumery Company.

183/56. *R. M. S. (Colon).*—(1) The best application for recent burns is Carron oil, made by mixing equal parts of lime-water and linseed or olive oil. (2) Zimmer & Co., 82 Mark Lane, E.C., sell asbestos suits which are excellent for the use of firemen.

182/24. *Nemo.*—The discoloration which results after a time in a mixture of sodium salicylate and ammonium carbonate or potassium bicarbonate has been frequently noted in these columns. In the *C. & D.*, May 2, 1899, page 882 Mr. R. H. Parker contributed an instructive note on the subject.

155/64. *G. B. W.* sends us a dozen or so lively little insects in a bottle as specimens of the insects which have become quite a pest among his drugs. "G. B. W." wants to know what they are and how to get rid of them. [The insect is *Anobium paniceum*, and has an extraordinary liking for drugs, feeding on aconite-root or cayenne pepper with apparently equal relish. The insects are difficult to get rid of when once they get into the woodwork of nests of drawers. The best thing to do is to burn all drugs which are infested with the insects, clean out the drawers and place a few drops of chloroform-vapour in each drawer, and close the drawers and allow them to remain closed for some days. The vapour of chloroform is poisonous to the insects. We have seen formalin recommended for the same purpose, but have known chloroform to be effectual in a case which we came across some years ago.]

194/50. *Ward.*—A menthol pastille (glycerin basis) is the best thing to prevent the voice becoming husky, or to remedy huskiness, when speaking or singing.

192/4. *Bot* wants our opinion on the following:—A customer has used plumbi acetat in 3ss. doses for the expulsion of the "grub" or "Bot" in Horse, with great results. He went to our subscriber for a second supply, and said his colt passed thirty or forty bots all dead. "Bot" has never heard of plumbi acetat being used for the purpose, and thinks the information may be of value to our subscribers. [Our veterinary expert says:—"Such heroic doses are extremely dangerous, and though one subject may appear to stand the dose without injury for a time, it is probable that out of half a dozen one or more would suffer extreme gastric irritation and others plumbism. We have known amateurs to give doses of arsenic which we should not dare to exhibit, and with success, as vermicides, but ulceration of the bowels or death from 'colic' has been a not unfrequent sequel, although the interval has been so long as to preclude the idea of its being due to any drugs given with the cognisance of the owner."]

156/30, *L. M.*, and 200/33, *D. H.*—Your queries do not come under the rules of this column.



180/4, *Recruit*, and 181/1, *J. G. F. B.*—The Government have no vacancies for dispensers for the army in South Africa, but some at home. On this point see the paragraph under *Irish News* last week.

133/15. *G. H. B.*—The article on "Pepsin" in the U.S. Dispensatory (38s., Lippincott) is probably the most complete article on pepsin available. There is much literature on the subject scattered through past volumes of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*.

168/72. *Hotspur*—The following are the chief works published on Toxicology:—Blyth's "Poisons: Their Effects and Detection," 2ls. (Griffin); Luff's "Forensic Medicine and Toxicology" (two vols). 24s.; Mann's "Forensic Medicine and Toxicology," 2ls.; Woodman and Tidy's "Forensic Medicine and Toxicology," 3ls. 6d. There is also a volume in the "Cyclopædia of Medicine" devoted to toxicology, but the volumes are not sold separately.

181/49. *H. & Co.*—Calculating Drawback on Tinctures.—The Revenue authorities use Sikes's hydrometer for calculating this. You will find in Thorpe's "Dictionary of Chemistry" and our *DIARY* for 1899 tables for calculating the percentage of spirit in tinctures.

144/62. *C. J. D.*—If the Wart on a Cow's Neck is the shape as well as the "size of a hen's egg," nothing can be easier than to put round it a tight ligature which will strangle it by cutting off the supply of blood. Warts with small necks, or any but those with diffused bases can be so treated, and the process is hastened by an escharotic. A very effectual and elegant preparation is a saturated solution of zinc chlor. in spt. vini meth., with a little coccus cacti or aniline of some other tint that will be conspicuous. Many warts on cattle are easily twisted off and a radical cure effected. Those which can neither be ligatured nor handled, should be first thoroughly softened with a strong alkali and hot water, when any of the usual caustics will act, the difficulty being always in adequate preparation; the agents taking scarcely any effect upon the dry outside, but readily disintegrating the inner substance when exposed to their action. Orpiment and arsenic acid are favourite remedies with cow-leeches. No danger attaches to their use from absorption, but among young stock there is a possibility of others licking it off.

179/44. *Aurantia*.—Essence of Peppermint.—As there is now no longer any Pharmacopœia preparation of this you may sell under the name of essence of peppermint what is generally required in your district. We know many places where a 1-in-10 preparation is given.

182/1. *Caput*.—Wind-pills.—See *C. & D.*, December 2, page 924.

181/74. *Mel Boracis*.—The best heel-ball is made from the residue of ceresine-purification. The sample you send is of that nature, and it would be futile to try to equal it on the small scale.

### Information Wanted.

*The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.*

199/21. What is Migworth's solution? It is used as a throat-pain.

199/90. Who knows Frederick Marlborough? Some time ago we inserted an inquiry in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* regarding Mr. Marlborough, a chemist in London, about whom information is required by friends of his in New Zealand, but the Christian name was then given to us incorrectly. Frederick Marlborough is his full name. We understand that he was a chemist connected with the drug-trade, but there is no one of the name of Marlborough in the register. If this catches the eye of any who know Mr. Frederick Marlborough and can give his address they will get a handsome reward for it by sending information to the Secretary to the Agent-General for New Zealand, 13 Victoria Street, S.W.

197/23. Who are the makers of Lawson's saturator?

202/27. Address of maker of Dr. King's bronchial lozenges.

## Batavia Quinine-auctions.

"PUBLIC Auctions of Quinine at Batavia" is the title of a pamphlet, translated from the Dutch, which has been published in Batavia. It deals with the history of cinchona cultivation and the manufacture of quinine in Java; also traces the methods of the European quinine "pool," and endeavours to show that the manufacturers' power is already partially broken by the Bandong quinine-factory. Their influence, however, is still too great (says the writer), as witnessed by the way they drive up or depress the prices of bark and quinine. An illustration of their method is then given, which is so well put as to hear quotation:—

If the quantity of bark offered at auction in Amsterdam is small, then prices of bark and quinine are artificially driven up, and speculation in the latter article is greatly encouraged, as much quinine as possible being sold at higher rates, for the most part to speculators. The planters, telegraphically informed of these profitable quotations for the bark, harvest and ship as much as they can. The shipments exceed the normal figure, and the manufacturers see every inducement (?) to depress the price at the next Amsterdam auctions, which enables them to secure the large shipments of bark at a low price. Moreover, the value of quinine is depreciated as much as possible; the invisible supply becomes suddenly visible; large quantities are offered; speculators and consumers, frightened by these apparently formidable supplies, are led to believe that these prices will even fall lower, and buy comparatively little quinine at these low quotations. Planters reduce their shipments, and . . . the same manoeuvre is repeated after a few months, and, unlikely as it may seem, with equal success.

The writer then remarks that the Bandong factory has also profited by this state of affairs by likewise selling little or no quinine when prices are low, and by selling when rates are driven up. But speculators hold aloof from buying Java quinine, and when they controlled the market in February the Bandong product was simply unsaleable at the high prices paid by the speculators. To prove the above, the writer of the pamphlet quotes from the *C & D.* of March 11, where it was stated that "two German brands of quinine alone have been in the boom." Of course, the main object of the pamphlet is to demonstrate the importance of Java-made quinine, and many arguments are adduced to show the planters the advisability of sending all their bark to the local factory. The concluding portion of the pamphlet is calculated to arouse the sympathies of the apathetic planter as a heartfelt appeal. It says:—"May their eyes at last be opened, may they see at last what concord will achieve for them, and what they have up to the present forfeited by discord!" *Nous verrons.*

From another source we learn that the Bandong quinine-workers have reduced their tariff of manufacturing charges exclusively for the quinine to be sold at the Batavia auctions. The new rates are as follows:—

For bark containing:—

6 per cent. or more, 5s. per kilo. of quinine.  
4 to 6 per cent., 5s., plus 5c. for every  $\frac{1}{10}$  per cent. under 6 per cent.  
4 per cent., 6s.  
3 to 4 per cent., 6s., plus 10c. for every  $\frac{1}{10}$  per cent. under 4 per cent.  
3 per cent., 7s.  
2 to 3 per cent., 7s., plus 20c. for every per cent. under 3 per cent.

Under the old tariff the charges were from 5 50s. per kilo. to 10 50s., according to the quinine-content. The commission charged for the sale of the quinine has also been reduced from 2½ to 1½ per cent.

Mr. Sidney B. Everett, U.S. Consul at Batavia, in a recent report, deals with the Batavia auctions, and advises American firms to at once take advantage of the opportunity now offered and declare their independence of the European quinine-trust by getting their product from the source of supply. He also gives the names of the following firms who are willing to send samples and act as agents for American houses:—Erdmann & Sielsken, Maintz & Co., MacLaine, Watson & Co., and J. Peet & Co., all in Batavia.

It is quite apparent from the foregoing that it will be interesting to watch the result of the first auctions. So far as we know, the Americans are likely to be the largest buyers, as they are in sympathy with the movement.



## Trade Report.

The prices quoted below are the bottom prices obtained for bulk quantities by importers and manufacturers, who do not supply retailers. They are in many cases exclusive of various charges.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: December 14.

ALTHOUGH business is quiet, as usual at this time of the year, there is a firm undertone in the drug and chemical markets, and changes in an upward direction continue. The feature of the week has been the advance in quinine by the makers, and the second-hand market has slightly responded. German refined camphor, on the other hand, has been reduced by 1*d.*, which fact caused a scare among second-hand holders on the Hamburg market, and enabled one of the principal operators to secure a considerable quantity of refined at lower rates. Higher prices are now asked for pilocarpine, eserine, and veratrine, in consequence of scarcity of raw materials. The annual castorum-sales were held yesterday, when everything offered was sold at or after the auction, at irregular but slightly easier rates. In crude drugs there has been a fair demand for Sumatra and Palembang benzoin, ipecacuanha, and gum tragacanth. The subjoined table gives the other changes of the week:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Acid, chromic	Acid, acetic	Acid, tartaric	Camphor
Aloin	Benzoin	Ammonia	(German)
Eserine	(Palembang)	sulphate	Cauary-seed
Fenugreek-seed	Chamomiles	Benzols	
Oil, cotton	Lycopodium	Senna (Alex)	
Oil, rape	Oil, linsced		
Oil, turpentine			
Pilocarpine			
Quinine			
Veratrine			

Among the arrivals of drugs, &c., at the principal ports of the United Kingdom from December 7 to 13 (both inclusive) are the following:—Aloes (Cape), 150; anise, star, 22; areca-nuts, 59; balsams (unenum), 10; camphor, 1; cardamoms, 6; castor-oil (E.L.), 193; chamomiles, 10; cinchona, 27; cocaine (crude), 12; cocoa-butter, 306; cochineal, 65; cod-liver oil, 200; gentian, 30; gum arabic (Trieste), 9; gum tragacanth, 28; honey (Ital.), 20; iodine, 77; juniper-berries, 35; limejuice, 303; oils, essential (Sicil.), 18; oil, castor (Ital.), 51; oil, cod-liver, 120; oil, lime, 38; opium (Tky.), 16; opium, 303; orris (Ital.), 40; rhatany, 59; saffron, 8; senna, 2; spermaceti, 62; squills, 20; vanillin, 6; wax, bees', (Ital.) 10, (Fr.) 50, (unenum.) 113.

### Drug and Vanilla Auctions.

The following dates have been fixed by the London General Produce Brokers' Association for the auctions in 1900:—*Drugs* (Usual): January 18, February 15, March 15, April 12, May 10, June 7, July 5, August 2 and 30, September 27, October 25, and November 22. For goods not previously offered: February 1, March 1 and 29, April 26, May 24, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 6. *Vanilla*: January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2 and 30, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 19, October 17, November 14, and December 12.

### Mincing Lane War-fund.

A fourth instalment of 356*l.* 10*s.* was paid in to the Mansion House on December 13, making a grand total of 11,454*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, and this virtually closes the collection. We understand that there were 533 donors, and there would have been many more had the list been opened earlier, for some had given direct to the Mansion House. Mincing-lanians are proud of the effort, and as all have worked well it is to be hoped that there will not be occasion to reopen the collection at a later date. Mr. A. H. Rolls, as chairman

of the two meetings held at the Commercial Salerooms, Mr. H. W. Price as Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. W. Green as Secretary, have worked hard, and Mr. Andrew Devitt, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Long have been indefatigable as collectors.

### Japanese Market.

Yokohama, November 2.

The market in general is quiet. In import articles there have been several alterations since my last report. Citric acid has changed hands at about 75 sen per lb. for 20-keg lots for forward delivery. Although the price of carbolic acid in London has advanced, the quotation here is unchanged, as this is the dull season. A good stock is held here. Some speculative business, amounting to 300 cwt., has been done at from 34½ to 35 sen per lb. for 34° to 35° C. crystals. Alcohol is quiet at 15 sen per lb. for barrels, and 16 sen per lb. for tins in wholesale lots. Some capitalist is buying very quietly in anticipation of a serious advance in the next consuming season, which will begin in March or April. As no more will be imported while the present duty lasts it is quite certain that the price will advance as stock diminishes. In Balsam Peru some 700 lbs. has changed hands at 4.20 yen per lb. Balsam copaiba is quoted at 97 sen per lb. in tins. Owing to cable advice from Europe cocaine muriate sold at 10.00 yen per oz. for 100-oz. lots, but later some 1,000 oz. which cost 7.00 yen or so has come to hand, and prices have receded. A further arrival of 1,000 oz. is expected in a fortnight. As no one bought at the advanced price in London, there will be no arrivals until after the end of this month, when prices will again be raised. Some 20 cases of Cape aloes in 2-cwt. cases have been sold at 23.50 to 24.50 per picul. Glycerin is quiet at 28 sen per lb. Ipecacuanha is very scarce, with small sales at 12.00 yen per lb. Lycopodium has advanced to 95 sen per lb. Morphine is scarce at 50 yen per lb. Potassium chlorate has declined greatly owing to the advice that the European Convention will come to an end at the close of the year. Spot is quoted 15.50 yen, and some 300 kegs have changed hands at 15.25; March-April delivery is quoted at 14.25 to 14.50 yen per cwt. Quinine has again advanced, and some 7,000 oz. was turned over at between 63 and 60 sen per oz. Holders now want 65 sen. Hydrochloride is very scarce at 95 sen per oz. in 100-oz. tins. During last month some 726 oz. of Java quinine was imported into Yokohama, and asimitar quantity also arrived to Kobe from Batavia *via* Hong-Kong, and importers quote higher price than German-made. Soda caustic has advanced, and 300 drums changed hands at 5.95 per picul. Importers want 6.25 per picul.

In export articles peppermint oil is very firm. For dry ginger there is a good demand, and exporters want to buy, but holders are generally in a strong position. Present quotation is 8.60 yen to 8.70 yen per picul for Eushin first grade, and 8.50 yen to 8.55 yen for second. Iodine preparations have advanced owing to scarcity and increased demand, both for home and export. During the past ten days 500 lbs. of iodide of potassium has been exported to Hamburg, and 800 lbs. to Hong-Kong, which cargo is believed to be for Europe *via* that port. Sulphate of copper is quoted at 4.70 per picul. It is said that some merchant is intending to export this article to Europe. Potass iodide is quoted at 3.75 per lb.; iodoform 6.00 per lb.; iodine resublimed at 4.85 per lb.; and crude at 3.50 per lb.—all guaranteed Ph. Jap. II.

### The Sicilian Market.

Messina, December 8

**OIL OF LEMON.**—The work of extraction being now at its height, and price having already reached its lowest point, any decline is highly improbable, or at any rate must necessarily be very insignificant. This depression is partly owing to the delay of orders from the United States. New oil for December delivery and onwards is quoted at 3*s.* 2*d.* per lb., c. and f.

**OIL OF BERGAMOT.**—The new extraction has already begun, and prices quoted at the present moment may be said to be exceptionally low. The crop being abundant induces buyers to hold back to a certain degree. Actual price for oil of 38° linalool ester is 6*s.* 6*d.* per lb., e. and f.

**OIL OF SWEET ORANGE** has advanced, as was foreseen in the last report of October 24. The squeezing of the oil having terminated, there is, of course, no possibility of further increase in quantity, and prices are likely to be sustained. The current quotation is now 6*s.* 9*d.* to 7*s.* per lb., e. and f.

**CONCENTRATED LEMON-JUICE.**—The market is firm, with an upward tendency. Actual quotations for ready shipment are 14*l.*, and for January onwards 13*l.* 10*s.* per pipe, c. and f. London.

### American Market.

New York, December 5.

Business is quieter, on account of the approach of the holiday season, together with the preparations for the annual stock-taking.

**BALSAM PERU** is firmer, stock in frs'l lands being exhausted \$1.65 per lb. will, however, still buy.



**COCA-LEAVES.**—Truxillo is selling at 28c. to 32c. per lb., according to quality. Recent arrivals of Huanoco have eased the market for this variety, and small packages can be bought at 30c. per lb.

**HONEY** is very scarce, and for prime white Californian 9½c. per lb. is asked.

**PEPPERMINT OIL** is very firm, but no advance has been made as yet, owing to the small demand. The latter shows, however, signs of early improvement.

**PECACUANHA.**—Rio is in light demand and easier; \$3.45 to \$3.60 is now asked.

**MENTHOL** has further advanced to \$2.90, at which figure very limited quantities are available. The tendency is upward, and as high as \$3.15 is asked by some holders.

**OPIMUM** is firmer, in sympathy with advice from Smyrna, and quotations show an advance to \$3.10 to \$3.15.

**PARAFFIN WAX.**—All grades have advanced ½c. per lb.

**QUININE** is without interest. Manufacturers quote 27c. per oz. for German, and 29c. to 30c. for domestic. Second hands quote 28c.

**SARSAPARILLA.**—Mexican is firmer, and holders generally ask 9c. per lb. Supplies can be had, however, at 8½c.

**SASSAPARILLA-BARK** is scarce, and has further advanced to 10c. The demand is good.

**SENEGA** shows no sign of weakening, and quotations are strong at 45c. to 50c., according to quality.

**SPERMACETI** is in abundant supply, and can be bought in bulk at 28c. per lb.

**SUMBUL-ROOT** is scarce, and holders ask 24c. per lb.

### German Drug Market.

*Hamburg, December 12.*

Business is very quiet here just now. In consequence of the very cold weather (10° Réaumur frost last night) the small rivers and canals are frozen, and the navigation into the interior is now closed.

**ALOE (CAPE)** is firm and scarce, at 65m. per 100 kilos.

**BALSAM TOLU** is easier, at 350m. per 100 kilos.

**CITRIC ACID** is quiet and lower, at 265m. per 100 kilos.

**CAMPOR (REFINED)** is very quiet. The factories have reduced their prices to 380m. per 100 kilos., and second-hand sellers now ask 360m. per 100 kilos.

**COCA-LEAVES.**—Two hundred and twenty-five bales have arrived per s.s. *Itauri*.

**ERGOT OF RYE** continues firm, good quality being quoted at 475m. per 100 kilos.

**LYCOPODIUM** is very firm and dearer; holders ask to-day 410m. per 100 kilos.

**MENTHOL** also firm, at 21½m. per kilo.

**QUININE** shows little business, although the manufactories raised the price to 41m. per kilo., while there are second-hand sellers at 39m.

**QUILLAIA-BARK.**—About 3,000 bales have arrived per s.s. *Itauri*.

All essential oils are quiet and unchanged at the recent quotations.

### Heavy Chemicals.

*[These prices are for other market-centres than London.]*

The main features of the heavy-chemical market remains practically unchanged from the conditions mentioned in our late reports. In the Tync, Clyde, and Lancashire centres a very steady trade is being done, and orders against existing contracts are good. Stocks generally are only limited, and prices are well maintained and very firm at late rates.

**ALKALI-PRODUCE.**—Bleaching-powder keeps in heavy demand. Softwood casks on rails, 6l.; f.o.b. Liverpool, 6l. 2s. 6d.; f.o.b. Tyne, 6l. to 6l. 5s. Caustic soda is practically unobtainable for prompt delivery; prices remain unchanged, but have an upward tendency. Hyposulphite of soda firm, 6l. 5s. per ton, f.o.b., in 7 to 8 cwt. casks; and 6l. 15s. per ton in 1-cwt. kegs. Saltcake is moving rather more freely at 26s. to 27s. per ton in bulk on rails. In chlorates, both potash and soda, there is only little doing, and prices remain unchanged. Chlorate of potash, 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.; chlorate of soda, 3¾d. per lb.

**BICROMATES** are unchanged. Potash, English and Scotch deliveries, 3½d. per lb., less 6½ per cent.; export, 3d. per lb. net, f.o.b. Glasgow. Soda, English and Scotch deliveries, 2½d. per lb., less 6½ per cent.; export, 2½d. per lb. net, f.o.b. Glasgow.

**SOUTH DURHAM SALT.**—Very firm, at 10s. per ton f.o.b. Tercs.

**RECOVERED SULPHUR.**—Firm, and in demand at 4l. 15s. to 5l. per ton in bags, free on rails.

**SULPHATE OF AMMONIA** is rather quieter. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 547 tons.

**SULPHOCYANIDES** quiet, at unchanged rates. Potassium, 7d.; ammonium, 9s. per cent., 6d.; and barium, 9s. per cent., 4½d. per lb.

**SAL AMMONIAC.**—40l. and 38l. per ton for firsts and seconds respectively.

**SALTPETRE.**—British refined, 21s. and 22s. per cwt. in barrels and kegs respectively. German barrels, 18s. 9d.; kegs, 19s. 6d.

**WHITE POWDERED ARSENIC** is very firm, at about 19l. 10s. per ton, ex-ship *Garston*.

**SULPHATE OF COPPER.**—Very steady; Liverpool, 25l. 10s.; January-March, 25l. 10s.; Anchor, 25l. 10s.

**LINSEED AND COTTONSEED CAKES.**—Prices all round remain firm, but the amount of business passing is scarcely so good as usual at this time. Linseed-cakes, 95-per-cent. pure, 8l. 12s. 6d. to 8l. 17s. 6d. Oilcakes, 7l. 10s. to 7l. 15s. Cotton-cakes, best makes, 4l. 12s. 6d. to 4l. 17s. 6d.; and seconds, 4l. 7s. 6d. to 4l. 12s. 6d.

**NITRATE OF SODA.**—Quietly steady; ordinary, 7s. 9d. to 7s. 10½d.; and refined, 8s. to 8s. 1½d. per cwt.

### Liverpool Market.

*Liverpool, December 14*

**BEESWAX.**—A sale of about 40 packages Chilean has been made at 7l. 2s. 6d. per cwt. Stocks are now very much reduced.

**CASTOR OIL.**—East Indian remains very flat, with sales at 2½d. to 2½d. per lb. First-pressure French has sold at 2½d. to 2½d. per lb.

**RHATANY-ROOT.**—There is an arrival of 59 packages, which may be on the market shortly.

**TURPENTINE** is quiet at 37s. 6d. per cwt. for American.

**HONEY.**—The total stock in first hands is about £0 cases only. Mixed quality is quoted at 46s. 6d. per cwt, and fine pale liquid will readily fetch 50s.

**GINGER.**—Stocks of African are reduced. Sales of several tons are reported at 25s. Some fine Cochin bought in at auction at 28s. per cwt.

**POTASHES** are scarce, and held at 27s. per cwt.

**GUINEA-GRAINS.**—There are further inquiries, but stocks are practically exhausted.

### Cablegrams.

**HAMBURG, December 14, 1.13 P.M.**—*Lycopodium* is firm at 410m. per 100 kilos. Quinine sulphate in second-hands is quoted 35½m. per kilo.; and refined camphor is 360m. per 100 kilos.

**NEW YORK, December 14, 3.20 P.M.**—Business is quiet. Quinine has been advanced to 30s. per oz., while cinchonidine is easier, at 26s. per oz. Beeswax is firmer, at 28½c. per lb.; and ergot of rye is easier, at 53s. Higher rates are now asked for *podophyllum-root*—viz, 4½c. Golden-seal is also stronger, at 63c. per lb.; and for Mexican *sarsaparilla*, which is a scarce article, 12c. is wanted.

### London Markets.

**ACID, ACETIC.**—Quotations are unchanged at the convention rates for small quantities, but makers refuse to book orders for 60 or 60 ton-lots for forward delivery, unless at 2l. to 3l. per ton higher rates, on account of scarcity of raw material.

**ACID, CITRIC.**—Quiet at 1s. 2½d. per lb. for B.P. crystals.

**ACID, OXALIC.**—Firm. Makers are holding out for 3d. per lb. for next year's delivery, and second hands offer at a trifle less.

**ACID, TARTARIC.**—Easier at 1s. 0¾d. per lb. for English on the spot, and 11¾d. for foreign.

**ALOE.**—For good bright livery Curaçao higher prices are asked since auction, owing to the scarcity of Cape, from 32s. to 35s. per cwt. being quoted, and 25s. for capey in second-hands.

**ALON** has been advanced lately owing to the rise in aloes; 2s. per lb. is now the price.

**ARROWROOT** steady. Fair to good St. Vincents at auction on Wednesday was bought in at 4¾d. to 5½d. per lb., and Bermuda at 2s. per lb.

**ASAETIDA.**—Quiet, with small sales of fair almondy gum at about 60s. per cwt. Some parcels of fine from the Persian Gulf are now on the way.

**BENZON.**—There has again been a good demand since the auctions, fair Sumatra seconds changing hands at from 6l. 10s. to 7l. 10s. per cwt. for export. Penang has also been inquired for, but there is none to be had. A newly-imported parcel of Palembang (31 cases) of fine quality has been sold privately at a high figure. There have been no arrivals of benzon in this week.



**CAMPHOR.**—On Monday German refined was reduced to 1s. 9d. per lb for ton lots, but it is understood that refiners are not sellers at this figure. Indeed it is likely that the next move will be in an upward direction, as the principal operator has secured a considerable quantity of refined from second-hand at lower rates owing to the reduction of the official price. Meanwhile English refiners make no alteration. Crude is unchanged.

The exports of crude from Canton and Hong-Kong from January 1, 1899, to November 10, have been:—

	1899	1898	1897	1896
Boxes ...	12,943	14,482	23,563	21,165

Hong-Kong reports dated November 10 report that the fortnight under review has been one of the liveliest on record, and been especially marked by the fact that foreigners have bought freely at advancing prices, thereby relieving natives of a great portion of their holdings. Transactions amount to close on 8,000 cases, which have been done at from \$75 to \$86. The stock is 145,000 cases.

**CASTORUM.**—The annual public sales of castorum were held on Wednesday, when 1,738 lbs. and 29 packages (about 688 lbs.) offered and sold. There was a fair attendance of buyers, but prices were very irregular. Firsts and seconds were steady compared with last December sales, but ordinary grades and pickings were from 9s. to 10s. lower. The following prices were paid:—Hudson's Bay Company, Y.F.: firsts, 75s. per lb.; firsts and seconds, unsorted, 64s. to 65s.; thirds, 44s. to 47s.; pickings, 37s. to 38s.; M.R.: firsts and seconds, 65s.; thirds, 40s. to 42s.; pickings, 36s. Canadian, firsts and seconds, 66s.; thirds, 41s. to 42s.; and pickings, 37s. N.W.: firsts and seconds, 65s. to 63s.; thirds, 43s. to 44s.; pickings, 38s. to 39s.; ditto and oil pods, 11s. per lb. S. Figgis & Co.'s sale: Canadian, firsts, 59s. to 63s.; seconds, 39s. to 41s.; thirds, 34s. to 35s.; and pickings, 5s. to 14s. per lb.

**CHAMOMILES.**—Sales have been made at a shade under 85s. per cwt. spot, and quotations range from this figure up to 113s.

**CINCHONA.**—The quantity of cinchona-bark offered at last week's auction at Amsterdam was not large, but the demand was good, in consequence of which the prices were about 15 per cent. higher than those paid at the previous auction. The highest price paid was 88½c. per half-kilo. (1s. 5¾d. per lb.) for a parcel of Ledgeriana bark containing 10.88 per cent sulphate of quinine; the lowest was 11c. (2d. per lb.) for succirubra root-bark with a content of 1.32 per cent.

The exports from Ceylon for the week ending November 21 were nil, and from January 1 to November 21 they were:—

	1899	1898	1897	1896
Lbs. ...	563,177	808,497	644,672	1,231,359

**COCAINE.**—Very firmly held at the official rates. Second-hand holders are not at all keen sellers, and although a little might be had at 19s. 6d. per oz., 20s. is generally asked.

**COCA-LEAVES.**—Good green Truxillo are offered at from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., and Huanoco at 1s. 6d. per lb., spot. About 70 bales have arrived this week, and supplies are coming along more freely now into Hamburg and the United States.

**CREAM OF TARTAR.**—Quietly steady, the demand being mostly for 95-per-cent. powder, at 77s. per cwt. First white crystals are quoted 74s., and powder, 76s.

**ESERINE.**—Both sulphate and salicylate have been advanced to 2s. 6d. per gramme. Pure is 3s. 6d. per gramme.

**GALLS.**—Persian blue have been in fair request at 70s. to 75s. per cwt., but 80s. is now asked nominally. Green are also scarce and firmly held, 65s. having been paid.

**GENTIAN** has been in more inquiry this week, and a few sales have been made at 13s. per cwt., c.i.f. There are now no sellers at the lower figure.

**GOLDEN SEAL.**—Prices have advanced in the United States to 2s. 8d. per lb, c.i.f.

**GUM ARABIC.**—Quiet. Good soft Soudan sorts have sold at 80s. per cwt.; and hard is offered at 65s. to 70s. In so-called Persian insoluble sorts a fair business has been done in picked at 26s. to 26s. 6d.; worked sorts at 21s. 6d.; common unworked, 17s. 6d. to 20s. for fine; and block 10s. per cwt.

**GUM GAMBOGE.**—Quiet. For fine picked pipe 9½s. is

wanted; and for a parcel of fair bright but blocky Siam and Saigon mixed holders want 8½ 7s. 6d. per cwt.

**GUM TRAGACANTH** has again been in active demand, some 200 to 300 cases of Bagdad qualities changing hands, mostly for the United States, at full values, and the market has been practically cleared of all grades of medium qualities between 6½ 10s and 13½ 10s. per cwt. There are further orders in the market waiting execution, and a shipment is expected here next week. The Bagdad qualities are likely to be short this season, so that buyers will have to fall back on Persian gum. Of Bassora hog gum small sales have been made at from 60s. to 80s. per cwt.; and low Syrian has also sold in a small way at 31s.; and fire at 33s. per cwt.

**IPECACUANHA.**—Some 20 bales, mostly Rio, have been sold since the auctions at unchanged prices. Twenty bales of Oartagena have arrived this week.

**LIQUORICE-ROOT.**—Decorticated Russian sticks are quoted at 29s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f., and decorticated cut from South Europe at 33s. to 40s. Small sales of good thin decorticated Persian have been made at 14s. per cwt.

**LYCOPodium** is again higher, especially in Russia, where the equivalent of 2s. per lb. is wanted. Here it is obtainable on the spot at 2s.

**MENTHOL.**—The London stock is now concentrated and very firmly held. Sales this week have been made at 11s. per lb c.i.f., and 10s. on the spot, but the principal holder refuses to go on at this figure, and requires 11s., but would not sell quantity at this figure.

**OIL, ANISE, STAR.**—Quiet, at 6s. 2d. per lb. spot nominally.

**OIL, COD-LIVER.**—Very quiet, but firmly held, at 80s. per barrel, c.i.f., with second-hand offers at 75s. to 77s. 6d. ex wharf.

**BERGEN, December 9.**—The market for non-congealing cod-liver oil is again firmer, and it is now impossible to obtain anything below 75s. per barrel f.o.b. The exports from Bergen to date are 13,606 barrels against 7,881 at the same time last year.

Mr. F. G. Brückner Erben, of Hamburg, in his latest cod-liver oil report, states that of the 16,000 cases recently arrived at that port, the greater part have been taken up by consumers. Higher prices are asked from Japan, and it is difficult to obtain offers.

**OILS, FIXED.**—Rape is dearer at 24s. 6d. per cwt. for refined on the spot. Linsced firmer, pipes being quoted at 21s. 9d. landed, and 21s 10½d. in barrels. Cottonseed refined dearer at 19s. 6d. to 20s. according to make: fine Lagos Palm 25s. 6d. Petroleum firmer.

**OIL, TURPENTINE.**—Dearer, at 36s. 10½d. to 37s. per cwt. for American on the spot. It is reported that there is a quantity of adulterated turpentine on the market at present, petroleum being the adulterant used.

**OPium** has been in fair demand, some 40 cases of "drug-gists'" and manufacturing descriptions having changed hands at full values. Persian is also firm, but quiet, at 12s 9d to 13s per lb. for fine.

**SMYRNA, December 1.**—The sales this week amount to 104 cases—viz, 30 current and Karahissar tale quale, at the equivalent of 8s. 5d. to 8s. 7d. per lb., and 74 cases of tale quale, &c., at 8s. 5d. to 8s. 7d., c.i.f. The principal buying was on account of the United States. The arrivals to date have been 2,239 cases, against 1,195 cases last year. The future prospects of the drug will depend upon what response consumers will offer to late advance, also to the prospects of the winter sowings. Reports from the interior complain of a want of snow in order to protect the plants. The stock on the Smyrna market now consists of 1,964 cases (1,000 of which are said to be in the hands of interested holders, whose object is to raise prices, under any circumstances), and in Constantinople 535 cases.

**CONSTANTINOPLE, December 8.**—In sympathy with Smyrna, where American buyers have been operating on a large scale this week, prices have been rising daily. Smyrna closes firm, at 8s. 6d. and 8s. 7d. for Karahissars, and 8s. 4d. and 8s. 5d. for Adette. This advance is, needless to say, much appreciated by the Smyrna bull clique, who are doing their utmost to push prices up still further. Seeing that Smyrna was going up without their aid, and that this market was quiet, they instructed their agent here to buy ten cases at 8s. 6d., whereas they might easily have succeeded in obtaining this quantity at 8s. 4d. or under. There is no doubt that the bulls have taken advantage of a favourable



opportunity to further their aims, and in view of the fact that they hold close upon half the Smyrna stock, and that stocks in general in Turkey are very light, it is not at all unlikely that they will be in a position to raise values still further, and keep them up at the higher level. The past fortnight's sales were as follows:—66 cases "Soft," at 8s. 6d. and 9s. per lb. f.o.b., and 25 cases druggists, at 8s. and 8s. 6d. per lb. f.o.b. Market closes very firm, and sellers scarce.

**PILOCARPINE.**—The makers' quotation for nitrate and hydrochloride has been advanced to 47s. 3d. per oz., or 2s. per gramme, but there are second-hand offers at a few shillings less, chiefly for 100-oz. lots.

**PODOPHYLLIN.**—American make is quoted at 9s. 6d. per lb. for B.P. quality. Although mandrake-root has been higher of late, podophyllin has not advanced in proportion.

**POTASH-BICHROMATE** is very firm at 4½d. per lb., London terms. Scotch makers are not sellers at the moment.

**QUININE.**—On Tuesday makers advanced their prices by 1d. per oz., now 1s. 3d. for 1,000-cz. lots of German sulphate. In second hands the market has been very quiet, with the exception of Monday, when a good business was done at 1s. 2d. to 1s. 2½d. per cz. for spot, and 1s. 2d. to 1s. 2¼d. for March, and since then there have been sellers at 1s. 2¼d. spot. On Wednesday only one transaction was recorded, and that for cash at 1s. 2d. per oz., with buyers of March delivery at 1s. 2½d. To-day the market is firmer again with a few sellers at 1s. 2½d., spot, and buyers at 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 2¾d.

The exports of quinine from Java during August amounted to 404 cases, all of which were shipped to London. From July 1 to August 31, 1899, the shipments were 432 cases, against 346 cases at the corresponding period of 1898.

**RHUBARB.**—Some 70 cases have arrived this week.

**SARSAPARILLA.**—The arrivals this week are 20 bales of grey Jamaica and 15 bales of Lima-Jamaica root. Spot sales of Honduras have been made at 1s. 5d. for "all rolled." Mexican is in a firm position at 5d. per lb., c. i. f.

**SASSAFRAS BARK.**—Is extremely scarce, 5½d. per lb., c. i. f., is wanted for bark of the root.

**SEEDS.**—Anise quiet, with small business at 30s. 6d. per cwt. c. i. f. terms for good Spanish. Coriander steady, a parcel of new season's Morocco at auction on Wednesday was bought in; 12s being wanted. Cuscuta is lower owing to pressure to sell; common Turkish can be bought at 34s. per quarter, and good at 35s. 6d.; Spanish being very scarce keeps its price. Morocco Fenugreek is dearer, 7s. 6d. per cwt. being now asked.

**SENEGA.**—Quiet at 2s. 2d. per lb., c. i. f.

**SENNA.**—There are a good many inquiries for Tinnevely about, but little business. Alexandrian senna is also quiet and slightly easier, with small sales of siftings at 4d. per lb.; half-leaf can be had at 7d., and picked at 9d., which prices are about ¼d. lower. The demand from the United States has fallen off, buyers preferring direct shipments.

**SPICES.**—This has been a quiet week owing chiefly to the approach of the Christmas holidays and the end of the year. The auctions on Wednesday were small, and there was scarcely any demand. There was no Ginger offered, and privately prices are steady with few transactions; small cut Cochin has been sold at 36s. to 38s. per cwt. Business of a retail character is doing in Japanese at 24s. 6d. per cwt. Zanzibar Cloves are the turn easier, January-March delivery having been done at 3¾d. per lb., also March-May with further buyers. A parcel of Japan Chillies was bought in, there being no demand. Pepper is quiet, but prices are fairly steady, the statistical position being strong. Fine Singapore white was bought in at 11d. per lb. Ceylon sold at 8½d., and Penang was bought in at 8½d. per lb. Penang black was withdrawn at 5½d., and Ceylon at 6d. per lb. Singapore is worth 5½d. per lb. on the spot, and 6d. to arrive by distant steamer.

**VANILLA.**—An auction was held on Wednesday when about 1,310 tins were offered, chiefly Seychelles, of good quality. The demand was brisk and the bulk sold at full rates to 1s. advance on common kinds which were in small supply, but fine pod was from 1s. 6d. to 3s. lower compared

with the previous sales. The following were some of the prices paid:—

**SEYCHELLES.**—Fair to good chocolate, 7 to 8½ inches, 25s. 6d. to 28s. per lb.; 7½ to 8 inches, 25s. to 27s.; 7 to 7½ inches, 24s. to 25s. 6d.; 6 to 7 inches, 23s. to 25s.; 5½ to 6 inches, 22s. 6d. to 24s.; and 5 to 5½ inches, 22s. to 23s. 6d. per lb.

**BOURBON.**—6½ to 7 inches, 24s. to 25s. 6d.; 6 to 6½ inches, 23s. to 24s. 6d.; and 3½ to 5½ inches, 21s. 6d. to 23s. 6d. per lb.

A Colonial Office report on the trade of Mauritius for 1898 states that the vanilla exported has declined in quantity, while increasing in value.

**VERATRINE.**—Makers have advanced their quotations to 4s. 8d. per cz., with a slight reduction for quantity.

## Coming Events.

### Tuesday, December 19.

*Royal Photographic Society*, 66 Russell Square, W.C., at 8 P.M. Captain W. de W. Abney on "Negatives for Three-colour Work."

*Orion Gymnastic Club*, Orion Hall, Hackney, at 8 P.M. Assault-at-arms in aid of the Mincing Lane Transvaal War Fund. Tickets may be had from Mr. W. W. Green, 25 Mincing Lane, E.C.

*Bradford and District Chemists' Association*, County Restaurant, Bradford. Children's evening.

*Chemists' Atrated Mineral Water Association (Limited)*.—Meeting at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., at 2 P.M.

*Wellcome Club and Institute*. Congratulatory dinner to Mr. Aubrey T. Hill by the members of the staff of Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., on his appointment as assistant-manager of the works at Dartford.

### Wednesday, December 20.

*Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain* (North British Branch), 36 York Place, Edinburgh, at 8.30. Mr. T. Dunlop will read papers on "A Strychnine-mixture" and "Maceration Tinctures."

*Royal Microscopical Society*, 20 Hanover Square, W., at 8 P.M. A review of photo-micrographic methods, by Mr. E. J. Spitta.

*Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association*, Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, at 9.15. Social evening.

*Society of Chemical Industry* (Nottingham Section), at 7 P.M. Meeting at Nottingham.

*Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society*, at 8.30. Mr. J. W. J. Turner on "Fruits, Rare and Interesting."

*Western Chemists' Association*, Westbourne Restaurant, Craven Road, W., at 9 P.M. Discussion on the Companies Amendment Bill, opened by Mr. Walter Hills.

### Thursday, December 21

*The Optical Society*, 7 Crane Court, E.C., at 8 P.M. Meeting.

*Chemical Society*, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., at 8 P.M. "The Condensation of Glycollic Aldehyde and Formation of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  acrose," by Mr. H. Jackson; "On Brasilin and Hæmatoxylin. Part iii.," by Messrs. A. W. Gilbody and W. H. Perkin, jun.; "The Action of Alcoholic Potash on Monobromoglutaric Ester," by Messrs. N. E. Bowtell and W. H. Perkin, jun.; "Mercurous Iodide" and "On the Interaction of Mercurous Nitrite and Ethyl Iodide," by Dr. P. C. Ray.

### Friday, December 22

*Glasgow Chemists and Druggists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association*, 100 West Regent Street, Glasgow, at 9.15. Social symposium.

**PUBLIC DISPENSERS' ASSOCIATION.**—A special meeting will be held at St. Bride's Institute, Ludgate Circus, E.C., on January 3, 1900, at 8 P.M., to make the necessary alterations of the rules, &c., in accordance with the motion of the late Poor-law Dispensers' Association, and election of officers. The Association has made St. Bride's Institute its headquarters, and will hold meetings there on January 3 and 31, February 28, March 28, and April 25. All public dispensers are invited, and further information may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. G. F. Forster, Shuttleworth Club, Fye Foot Lane, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

**MEDICAL AID FOR SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.**—The *British Medical Journal* of to-day says a circular has been issued to the Secretaries of all branches of the British Medical Association in the United Kingdom inviting them to organise a scheme of gratuitous medical attendance on the families of soldiers and sailors in South Africa. Many branches have already expressed themselves in favour of the movement.